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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you intend to sign the petition to place the question of Saipan casino legalization on the Nov. 6 ballot?

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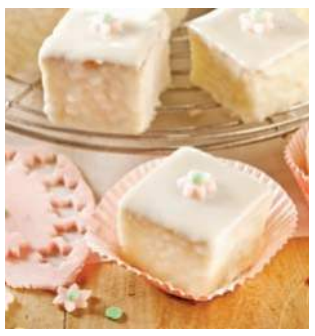
INSIDE

YOUNGSTYLE



This is a story about baking perfect sweets for Mom. ➤ PAGE 17

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

It is definitely possible to mix elegance with comfort at home. ➤ PAGE 19

LIFE & STYLE

Hollie Cavanagh couldn't make "American Idol" voters love her. ➤ PAGE 21

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'Let people vote on reducing Legislature'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Residents and some officials are asking lawmakers to allow voters to decide this November on a proposal to reduce the size of what they describe as a "bloated" government by not killing a legislative initiative that cuts the number of Saipan members of the House of Representatives from 18 to nine.

If the House and Senate pass House Legislative Initiative 17-4, it will place the Legislature reduction plan on the ballot this Nov. 6 election for voter action.

"It's about time we take action to reduce this bloated government. Lawmakers should pass that legislative initiative to allow us voters to decide. Saipan is a small island with 18 House members. What better way to reduce this government than starting at the Legislature… The Legislature has become an employment agency," resident Herminia Fusco told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Fusco said she also supports having Saipan House members elected island-wide, instead of by individual precincts.

"This has to be put on the ballot. Times have changed. We cannot allow business as usual. Everything is collapsing around us yet we still have the same big government. What we need is a small and ef-

See VOTE on Page 4

FEELING THE PINCH
Techuo Yleisa and his daughter Elisa, 3, spend a relaxing afternoon on the grounds of the CNMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan where flame trees are now in bloom. Families are now feeling the pinch of a 13.6 percent cut in food stamp benefits which, for the Yleisas, means getting only close to $86 a month instead of $99 a month.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

COP owner found in breach of lease

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Suwaso Corp., the owner of Coral Ocean Point Resort Club, breached its lease agreement for the COP property at Agingan Point, according to the Department of Public Lands.

Acting DPL secretary Pedro I. Itibus cited at least three lease conditions that Suwaso allegedly failed to address.

In a notice sent to Suwaso chair Vincent Torres, Itibus gave the company 30 days from May 1, 2012, to address the alleged deficiencies. If Suwaso fails to resolve these deficiencies within 30 days, Itibus said that DPL will terminate the lease agreement.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Torres yesterday but he had yet to reply as of press time.

» **Suwaso given 30 days to address alleged deficiencies**

The first breach is Suwaso's alleged failure to submit adequate construction plans by the deadline. Itibus said that Suwaso was given 180 days from Aug. 11, 2011, to "submit the construction, expansion, and renovation plans and specifications for…its proposed improvements to the premises, along with a project schedule."

"Although Suwaso has submitted construction plans, including maps, for a conference room and additional bungalow units, Suwaso has not submitted a construction schedule for either phase," Itibus said.

Suwaso must submit the construction schedule and properly identify Phase 1 and Phase 2 in its plans, he said.

The second breach, Itibus said, is Suwaso's failure to secure and submit the necessary permits within the allotted time. DPL, he said, has already granted Suwaso several extensions, and a further 90-day extension is unwarranted.

The third breach, Itibus said, is Suwaso's failure to submit enough evi-

See COP on Page 4

Local

TASTE OF THE MARIANAS

Gyu Hyung, right, of Korea demonstrates his winning style during the Hotdog Eating Competition on May 5, 2012, during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on Saipan. Hyung won $20 cash placing third, after first place winner Rob Epley of Saipan and Hyuk Kweon of Korea.

MVA

Tipiyeew Dancers perform indigenous Carolinian dances during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 5, 2012, on Saipan. The festival will continue every Saturday evening at American Memorial Park throughout May Tourism Month.

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Pie-eating contest tonight at the Taste of the Marianas

The 14th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden will continue today, May 12, at 6pm, with 15 vendors serving up delectable dishes and a pie-eating competition at 8pm. Participants may register on site on a first-come, first-serve basis. The night's entertainment will include Green Meadow School, Koblerville Umang Glee Club, CAB Dancers, Alan la, W.S.R. Elementary MY WAVE Club, Sisters Forever, and Latte Vibe.

"Taste," as called by locals, will continue every Saturday evening beginning at 6pm. throughout the month at American Memorial Park. Local hotels and restaurants offer fine fare at a reasonable fare, with most dinner items at $6 or less. Throughout the evening, live entertainment was offered on the main stage while secondary entertainment and competitions will take place at the secondary stage.

Next Saturday's Taste will feature the Bartenders' Cocktail Competition, while the Chefs' Competition on May 26 will pit hotel junior chefs in a cook-off highlighting a select cut of Certified Angus Beef and local ingredients. Arts and crafts will also be on sale each evening. ***(MVA)***

Food vendors serve up dinner with a smile during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 5, 2012. The annual festival is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and features food, live entertainment, and nightly competitions in celebration of May Tourism Month.

MVA

Ju Won Jung, Darwin Maura, and Simon Jed Necesito finished third, second, and first respectively, in the Under-18 Hotdog Eating Competition at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival on May 5, 2012, in Saipan.

MVA

Senate amends $15 hotel fee bill to make it effective July 1

At the recommendation of the Fitial administration, the Senate passed an amended version of a House revenue-generating bill assessing a $15 environmental and tourism promotion fee among tourists or "transient" occupants of hotels, lodging houses, condominiums, and similar facilities in the CNMI, to make it effective July 1, 2012, among other things.

Cabrera

By a vote of 8-0, House Speaker Eli Cabrera's (R-Saipan) House Bill 17-290 passed the Senate and is on its way back to the House for action.

Cabrera said the House leadership is poised to vote on the amended revenue-generating bill, and hopes that other members will also do the same.

"That Senate amendment is at the recommendation of the administration, and I expect it to pass the House, and signed by the governor. I know that there's no other revenue generating bill that became law other than the original $15 tourism fee but it has to be amended because of local and federal concerns," he said.

His HB 17-290 amends Public Law 17-29 as amended by P.L. 17-58 or the Tourism Incentive Program, which provides incentives to travel agencies bringing in more tourists from Asian countries to the CNMI and charges passengers from these non-U.S. destinations a $15 travel promotion fee.

The Fitial administration, however, ran into federal and local concerns on the charging of this fee on passengers, so it asked the Legislature to amend the measure—the only revenue-generating bill that became law so far during the 17th Legislature.

The law signed on Nov. 4 is being amended even before it could be implemented.

Cabrera's bill assesses a $15 environmental and tourism promotional fee only among "transient" or tourist occupants of hotels, lodging houses, motels, resort motels, apartments, apartment hotels, condominiums, and similar facilities. It will be charged only on those above 13 years old.

Funds derived from the $15 fee will be deposited into a revolving fund administered by the Department of Finance and remitted to the Marianas Visitors Authority. These funds will then be used to build, equip, improve and maintain projects, agencies and facilities promoting recreation and tourism. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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TO SUPPLEMENT DPS FORCE

Civilians as volunteer police

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A newly pre-filed bill creates a civilian volunteer police reserve that would supplement the resources of the Department of Public Safety in times of crisis and to provide other services such as directing road traffic during funerals, Fourth of July Parades, sports events such as Xterra and Tagaman so that regular police would devote their time on other public services such as patrol and investigation.

BACK IN TRAINING GUNG/SPC JESSE TOVES

Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, The Adjutant General for the Guam National Guard, talks to 2nd Lt. Leonard San Nicolas, group leader for about 95 Guam Army National Guard soldiers checking in for their flight to their annual training site in California. The group is part of over 600 soldiers in a major air movement operation to a training site in California for their three-week training. The Guam Army National Guard also includes soldiers from the CNMI.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said in an interview yesterday that his House Bill 17-304 was prompted by what he heard from DPS officials during last week's hearing on their fiscal year 2013 budget, specifically about high overtime costs because of a lack of manpower.

"With this bill, regular DPS police be supplemented by civilians to do other duties such as directing traffic on the road when there are marathons and parades. Mainly on traffic control. With limited resources and increased demand for its services, DPS can still provide these services," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

Palacios said civilian volunteers will not be allowed to carry firearms but they will be able to wear uniforms and receive training from DPS and the CNMI Office of Homeland Security.

He said his bill would allow DPS to maintain its services with minimum costs.

Palacios, who has been a strong advocate of leaner and a more efficient government, said HB 17-304 or the Civilian Volunteer Police Reserve Act of 2012, would result in "cost savings, increased human resources and the development of a qualified, trained applicant pool."

He said police-community relations can also improve with this proposal.

Under the bill, the Civilian Volunteer Police Reserve will be created within DPS and shall be headed by the DPS commissioner.

"The general functions and duties of the Civilian Volunteer Police Reserve shall be to provide backup manpower for the suppression of crime, preservation of law and order, fight and control fires and to assist in civil emergencies," the bill states.

Volunteers will be given allowance. Palacios said each civilian volunteer police who successfully completes probationary requirements and who contributes a minimum of 40 hours per month will receive an allowance of $250 a month, to defray the cost of maintenance of their equipment and uniforms.

DPS shall identify funds within the department to satisfy this.

Palacios said this allowance would still be minimal compared to what DPS might incur in overtime costs to provide all the services demanded of it.

Resident Herminia Fusco said she supports proposals to save government funds but increasing efficiency, but added that this new bill has to be thoroughly reviewed before passage.

"There's no reason for residents not to help out in times of needs. It's our civic duty. But this has to be reviewed," she added.

VOTE

From Page 1

ficient government," she added.

Fusco was among the six who testified in support of Rep. Joseph Palacios' (R-Saipan) HLI 17-4 on Thursday night at Dandan Elementary School. Only 11 residents showed up in that public hearing.

The previous night at Garapan Elementary School, only six people showed up and only two testified. They both expressed support for Palacios' initiative.

Palacios said even on hot issues such as government size reduction, only a few people show up for a host of reasons.

"That's why I have been telling my colleagues to deliberate on the bill and pass it, and then let the people decide on it when it's already on the ballot. It takes longer to set up the venue for the public hearing than the actual hearing," Palacios said.

He hopes that the fate of HLI 17-4 won't be similar to the legislative initiative on Article 12 that the Senate recently killed, depriving voters the chance to decide the issue themselves.

"I say it again. Our economy is down, our population is down, nothing justifies a big government. It's the people that decide about their Constitution," he added.

He said it would have been better if the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations held the public hearings last year, shortly after he introduced HLI 17-4 in February 2011, instead of waiting for the last-minute, when people are already flooded with other serious problems such as the Retirement Fund Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing and a hospital that may be forced to shut down.

"But even if only a few showed up, all of them supported the initiative. Nobody opposed it. I hope the committee would recommend passage," Palacios said.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House JGO Committee, said there were other pressing matters that needed to be prioritized, that's why the panel is holding the public hearing on HLI 17-4 only now.

"Besides, the Legislature has until August to vote on this bill and have it placed on the ballot. We still have time," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He also said the panel will hold hearings in every Saipan precinct. With Precincts 1 and 3 over, the next public hearings will be in the remaining precincts.

Demapan reiterated that as an individual lawmaker, he supports reducing the number of lawmakers. But as committee chairman, he needs to get the consensus of the panel before making any decision.

"As long as I am the chairman of the JGO Committee, there will be no shortcuts," he added.

Palacios reiterated that his initiative tells the public that the Legislature is willing to be part of the solution to reduce government spending and increase efficiency. He said reducing the size of the House would result in savings in excess of $1 million annually.

His HLI 17-4 seeks to amend Article 2, Section 4 subsections (a), (b) and (c) of the CNMI Constitution.

The over $1 million in annual savings will be realized "by cutting the present budget by each representative's salary of $39,500 together with their respective annual budget of $84,146. This savings of $1,112,814 would be significant in light of the current economic circumstances," the initiative states.

There are currently 20 House members. Of this number, Rota and Tinian each have one; the rest, 18, are from Saipan. The Senate has nine members comprising three each from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Glen Hunter, another resident who testified in support of HLI 17-4 Thursday night, said that altering the CNMI Constitution to cap the total representatives for the CNMI at 11 (nine from Saipan and one each from Rota and Tinian) instead of 20 is a simple change that will save the CNMI millions of dollars.

"With all the pressing issues we face in the CNMI, it is refreshing to see at least some signs of positive change. Change is a slow process but it is happening. How many of us would have ever imagined a sitting representative putting forth a bill that cuts the size of the House by almost half? All three representatives that showed up to the hearing expressed their support for it. That is also another first," Hunter said.

He said the initiative "is a good first step" and commends Palacios for drafting the bill and the committee for holding public hearings on it.

"I also commend Rep. Tony Sablan and Rep. Ralph Demapan for publicly stating their support for this initiative. I wish it could go further to reduce the size of government but I realize that since it is an initiative it has to be very focused and pose only a single question to be placed on the ballot," Hunter said.

He said some have questioned the initiative's timing and others have said it will be dead on arrival if it makes it to the floor of the House.

"I, on the other hand, do not believe there is ever a bad time to start trying to cut the size of government and hope for its swift passage. As someone once stated, things don't get better by chance, they get better by change. The Legislature can lead by example by executing this change. I encourage everyone in the community to read the initiative and contact your representatives to let them know how you feel about it," Hunter added.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) echoed the sentiment that the House is "bloated and has very little to show for [it] with real crisis at hand."

"While I believe that this will save the local government funds, the bigger question is how will those savings be used by the administration?" he said.

Dela Cruz feels that the number of senators should also be reduced to four from the current nine: two senators from Saipan, one from Rota, and one from Tinian.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said he supports Palacios' initiative and is encouraging his colleagues to also support it when it comes to the Senate.

"Just like the Article 12 initiative which unfortunately was defeated in the Senate, this House initiative should be passed by the Legislature so that the people can decide on it during the election," he said.

While he has yet to read the full text of HLI 17-4, Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) believes that if the intent is cost saving and government efficiency, then he would vote "yes" if it comes to the Senate.

There are other members, however, that do not support HLI 17-4 as written.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said he would have to vote "no" to the way the initiative is written.

"I don't mind the reduction in numbers. It is the other section I cannot agree on, the part that makes Saipan an islandwide election. It will be devastating for the smaller precincts like Precinct 2, 4 and 5. We are already outnumbered, having an islandwide election will ensure that the residents of those precincts are not represented," he said.

COP

From Page 1

dence of its financing sources to DPL. According to one of the conditions of the lease extension agreement, "the document listing the sources of financing must be drafted with sufficient specificity to be verifiable and acceptable to the DPL."

Itibus noted that many of the documents submitted to DPL as evidence of funding were in Japanese and are not "verifiable and acceptable to DPL."

Torres already issued a notice of release to about 80 employees on May 1, 2012. In the notice, Torres said they told employees a couple of weeks ago that they will be shutting down the hotel operation and some of the restaurants on May 13, 2012, to begin the renovation plan for about eight to 12 months.

"This significantly reduces the workload and or removes your job position. Accordingly, it is with much regret to inform you that you will be released from your employment from Suwaso 30 days from the date of this letter," Torres said.

He said that once they reopen the hotel after renovation, the employees are welcome to work with them again.

"We have a very good working relationship with you now, and we would like to maintain and continue such relationship after you leave us up until you come back and work with us again," Torres told the employees.

He said the company will pay the employees' salaries for more than two weeks after May 13 without requiring them to report for work.

Torres urged employees to use their free time to look for another job while still being paid by Suwaso. "If you applied for CW-1 petition, Suwaso will continue to work and assist you if you need any help or assistance," Torres said.

"It is my sincerest heartfelt apology for this decision, but please understand that this business decision includes the safety of our employees as well as customers," he added.

Last month, Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that COP is shutting down its hotel and room operations beginning May 13, Sunday, to give way to its $20-million renovation project. Torres said they will begin the renovation and construction plan as soon as they obtain the required government permits.

"However, its golf course and one of its restaurants will remain open," Torres said.

The current Suwaso owners had promised to settle the previous owners' debts to the CNMI government of almost $1 million, and with other CNMI private and public agencies using an immediate infusion of $7 million.

COP is located on a 735,023 square meter property at Agingan Point, Saipan. Under the law, any lease and extension of lease of public land consisting of more than five hectares requires legislative approval.

CUC: Sewer line smoke testing in CK next week

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be smoke-testing the sanitary sewer lines in all districts of Chalan Kanoa beginning Monday, May 14, through Friday, June 1. The testing, which involves forcing smoke into the sewer lines, will check for leaks, breaks, and defects in the system.

The smoke is odorless, creates no fire hazard and will not enter your home or business unless you have defective plumbing or dried-up sink traps or floor drains. The smoke test should only affect your property for approximately fifteen minutes. The smoke used for this test is manufactured strictly for this purpose, leaves no residuals or stains and has no effect on plants and animals. Direct contact with the smoke may cause minor respiratory irritation in some people.

If people in your building suffer from a heart condition, asthma, emphysema, or some other respiratory condition and are planning to stay in the building during testing, notify the CUC Wastewater Operations at (670) 322-5032 (or 322-5033) to discuss your specific case.

Prior to testing, pour two gallons of water in any seldom-used sinks and floor drains to prevent sewer gases, smoke and odors from entering the premises. If smoke does enter your home during testing, immediately remove yourself from the building, notify the crews that are conducting the test or call CUC. Again, if smoke enters your home, it is an indication of a plumbing defect, so you should also notify a plumber. The correction of any defects is the responsibility of the property owner.

Smoke that you will see coming from the vent stacks on houses is normal. However, smoke coming from holes in the grounds is not normal and is considered a defect. All such defects will be logged. CUC will then contact the property owners if a defect is located on private property.

The smoke testing procedure has been recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an effective means of identifying problem areas in the sewer system. Eliminating system defects and illegal connections will help the community remain in compliance with federal laws.

Contact CUC Wastewater Operations at (670) 322-5032 (or 322-5033) with any questions or concerns. ***(CUC)***

Fund suit vs CUC moved to fed court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund yesterday removed its lawsuit against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. from the Superior Court to the NMI District Court.

The Fund, through counsel Braddock J. Huesman, referred its lawsuit against CUC to U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division designated judge Robert J. Faris for hearing and determination in connection with the Fund's pending Chapter 11 bankruptcy case.

Huesman filed the Fund's notice of removal in the district court, while attorneys Christopher M. Timmons and Carolyn M. Kern filed the Fund board's notice of removal in the Superior Court.

The Fund filed the lawsuit against CUC in May 2011 for alleged failure to pay a total of $4.4 million in employer contributions, penalties, and economic damages. The lawsuit is pending in Superior Court.

According to Huesman, the district court has jurisdiction over the lawsuit because it is related to the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy case now pending in the district court's Bankruptcy Division.

Huesman said the claims and causes of action in the CUC case represent significant assets of the Fund's estate and the resolution or liquidation of such claims will impact the Fund's Chapter 11 case.

Huesman said the claims in the lawsuit constitute components of a broader-scale effort to recover and administer assets belonging to the Fund—employer contributions to the Fund that have not been paid and which are necessary to the Fund's restructuring efforts.

Transferring the case to the district court "best facilitates the [Fund's] goals of efficiently and timely administering [its] affairs and assets through the Chapter 11 case by concentrating all matters…before one court," Huesman said.

Church offers free family photos for Mother's Day

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Church 360 is offering free family photos to its congregation and service visitors in celebration of Mother's Day.

Worship leader Kayla Wood said tomorrow's event is open to families, singles, and couples without children.

Wood said the event is an opportunity to get professional, current photos of the family, with spouse, and the children. The photos can be a great gift for mothers on their special day.

"Churches should support and minister to families," said Wood. "It should be Christ-centered and very purposeful in building up healthy marriages and families. We really need that on Saipan."

Church 360 is a contemporary non-denominational Christian church on island and is located at Suite 103 on the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

The church's Sunday service starts at 10:15am followed by the photo session. Wood noted that the photos will be emailed to the email address provided a few days after the service.

"Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come. Light snacks will be available as well," she added.

For more information, call 888-2116 or mail info@church-360saipan.org.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- a. Garapan Annex RFP
- b. Personnel Matters
- c. Update on Thirty-Two (32) former RD Properties
- d. QAP 2012
- e. REO's for Sale (003 D 16, 003 D 22, 001 C 57)
- f. Multifamily Renewal
- g. CDBG/CDBG-R Updates
- h. ESG Updates
- i. Fiscal RFP

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. OTHER MATTERS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

A laudable stance on gay marriage

The following editorial appeared in the Kansas City Star *on Thursday, May 10:*

Barack Obama's evolving stance on gay marriage has finally brought the president and the nation to the bright side of history. For the first time, a U.S. president has unequivocally affirmed that same-sex couples should be able to legally marry.

In an interview with Robin Roberts of ABC News, Obama offered a well-crafted and nuanced explanation of how he transitioned from supporting legal rights short of marriage for same-sex couples to endorsing legal nuptials. The back story is more interesting than the political overtones of Obama's announcement, because it mirrors a process familiar to many Americans.

Obama talked about working with staff members who are in committed same-sex relationships. He has listened to his young daughters speak casually about school friends who are being raised by moms or dads of the same gender. To them, it's a non-issue.

On college campuses, young people who disagree with the president on nearly everything speak out in favor of full equality for gay and lesbian couples, Obama said. And even with his administration ending the military's misbegotten "don't-ask, don't-tell" policy, the president came to believe that the gay men and lesbian women putting their lives on the line for their country should be able to stand at the altar with their partners.

As for the politics, Obama has in some ways lagged on this issue. Up until now, he has refused to endorse same-sex marriage, even as his administration made it possible for gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the military and his Justice Department announced it would not defend the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

Pundits will speculate that Vice President Joe Biden inadvertently forced Obama's hand when Biden declared his own support for same-sex marriage. But who cares? If Biden went astray, as he sometimes does, he led the president to the correct destination.

Obama was careful to emphasize in his interview that his position was a personal one. Laws governing marriage are primarily the responsibility of the individual states. Unfortunately, 30 states, including Kansas and Missouri, have laws banning gay marriage. North Carolina joined the list on Tuesday with a public vote.

But the tide is clearly turning. And for the first time, the millions of gay and lesbian Americans who want nothing less than the full privileges of citizenship can claim the president of the United States as an ally.

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Politics aren't for the humble

By DICK POLMAN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Dick Polman is a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: Philadelphia Inquirer*, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at dpolman@phillynews.com; blog: http://www.dickpolman.blogspot.com.*

When the usual suspects complain that President Obama is "politicizing" the anniversary of the death of Osama bin Laden, I can only marvel at their willful amnesia.

History didn't begin when this president was sworn in. Presidents in the midst of politicking have long sought to tout their track records abroad. And why shouldn't they? Any president who scores on the military front is going to claim credit at the ballot box. That's democracy.

It's easy to understand why Republicans are upset that Obama has repeatedly invoked Osama. The traditional GOP tactic is to tag Democrats as national-security softies, but the president's successful hit on America's number-one enemy foils that plan.

So the fallback is to portray Obama as a braggart who is "spiking the football." That's pretty weak tea, as evidenced by this statement from Mitt Romney's camp: "It's now sad to see the Obama campaign seek to use an event that unified our country to once again divide us."

The Romney people would be well advised to brush up on the history of their own party. Consider, for instance, the election of 1900. William McKinley's bid for a second term featured an end-zone dance about the Spanish-American War. McKinley's top surrogate was his running mate, war hero Theodore Roosevelt, who told voters: "We drew the sword and waged the most righteous and brilliantly successful foreign war that this generation has seen."

But why go back 112 years? I don't recall any of Obama's critics complaining in May 2003, when George W. Bush donned a flight suit and strutted around the deck of an aircraft carrier with a banner emblazoned "Mission Accomplished."

Everyone knew that ceremony was being choreographed for Bush's re-election bid. The White House hired an ex-ABC News producer to advise on production values. The carrier was directed to shift positions several times to ensure that an expanse of water, rather than the nearby California coastline, would serve as the backdrop when Bush's plane landed. And his remarks, noting the end of "major combat operations in Iraq," were delayed until the cameras could frame him against the golden sunset, at what's known in Hollywood as "the magic hour."

Hey, politics ain't beanbag. Iraq looked like a triumph (that day, anyway), so naturally Bush wanted to reap the credit.

Security policy and domestic politics are inextricably linked—and nobody knew that better than Bush operative Karl Rove. Which is why, a mere four months after the 9/11 cataclysm, Rove served notice that the Republicans would seek to leverage 9/11 to their advantage in the 2002 midterm elections. Bush had brandished a bullhorn amid the rubble of lower Manhattan, and he had dispatched troops to fight the terrorists; it was time to politicize it all. Rove told a January 2002 meeting of the Republican National Committee: "Americans trust the Republicans to do a better job of keeping our communities and our families safe."

Two years later, Rove virtually wrapped Bush in the 9/11 flag. Lest we forget, the GOP convention was staged in New York City for the first time, and the speeches sought to frame the contest as a choice between the avenger of ground zero and the irresolute John Kerry. Republicans who are knocking Obama for boasting about Osama today never uttered a peep when Bush bragged about bagging terrorists in '04.

Republicans were mute again in 2006, when Rove politicized the news that al-Qaida leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi had died in an airstrike. Mindful of the '06 midterm elections, Rove told an audience that Zarqawi would still be alive if Democrats had been in charge: "When it gets tough and when it gets difficult, they fall back on that party's old pattern of cutting and running."

This is how the game has long been played, as Republicans well know. They're just bugged that the hit on bin Laden has made their cut-and-run rhetoric obsolete. And every day they grouse about "politicization," Obama gets a fresh chance to frame his decision to order the raid on bin Laden's compound as a metaphor for decisive leadership.

Indeed, former Bush speechwriter David Frum acknowledges that Obama faced a "devilish" decision. In his words, "Obama can claim credit for its success not because he planned the raid, but because he would have had to wear the blame if the raid had failed."

There it is. If the raid had failed, Republicans would be gleefully spiking the football, linking Obama to Jimmy Carter's failed hostage rescue of 1980. They're just sore that they can't be the ones politicizing it. But as they say in politics, to the victor go the spoils.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CNMI permanent residents

Buenas. It's been months since the United States took over the CNMI. There were lots of issues. Many were affected and lots had to follow the U.S. immigration laws and rules, which is the same as being on U.S. soil. As with other countries, immigration rules are different, strict, and restricted to people of other countries for reasons. Everyone had to do what we all have to do.

The CNMI has some 300 foreign people that have been residing here who were granted back in 1985 a "Permanent Resident" status—only for those who were here during those U.S. Trust Territory time before 1978 when Saipan became the Commonwealth. Then immigration and naturalization chief Richard J. Keatley was in charge at the time. A card was issued to all those who were qualified by presenting a proof and affidavit that the individual was here before the transition to Commonwealth. The rightful holder of that card was not required to register as an alien. This card was used to enter the CNMI like a passport from then on. These people are the ones you know for more than three to four decades, who have been actually living here, speaks Chamorro, grew up here, and might be your best friend. You will be surprised to know who these people are. Currently, they are residing here by registering for parole and paid a fee to continue their employment. There are no clear solutions to the continuity of their ability to "stay home." Deporting these people to their country is like sending them to their origin to make them homeless. It will force them to leave their homes and let them start all over.

I am sure that most of our politicians, U.S. immigration officials, and the one's in charge are not aware about this. USCIS or U.S. immigration probably won't even dare recognize this. I met one of my long time friend, a member of the Legislature, rapping jokes, talking and laughing as usual. Popped about this and didn't know what this was. He always thought I was a U.S. citizen.

According to USCIS, the latest update was that these 300 individuals will (probably) have to keep renewing by the expiration date, pay $380 to work and to travel, apply for another parole to travel and pay $300 so that they can return back to the CNMI (home) and be able to work legally and not be treated as a visitor or tourist. Currently, these people have to do so to travel so that they can return home legally.

Last words are that there have been no updates for these people that I should say are locals. As far as I know, none of our local government people have taken any actions on this. My opinion is that they don't know about this kind of people who the CNMI immigration or government granted status. Then after more than three decades, these people are now considered an alien under the U.S. law. Isn't this irresponsible treatment of people who speak, eat, live, blend, contribute, and etc. to our community? Since no one is speaking up, I had to bring this up. Hope whoever this may concern, I think it's about time you should do something about these people of the CNMI.

Kazunori Ikeda
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Happy Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day to our mother, Angelina Cabrera Sablan, and our three sisters: Mildred, Evelyn, and Nadine! We may not be around but we always think of you all. To our mother, you raised us proud and gave everything you could for us. Words can't express how wonderful and incredible you are to us, we will all be together soon. When the day comes you will be proud to see that your hard work paid off. Your love for all eight of us made us who we are today. Thank you mom and enjoy yourself. To our sisters, keep her safe, strong and happy. For you are the keepers of an amazing woman who taught you everything you needed in life—to live, laugh and love, always and forever. Greetings come from Michael, Jeffrey, Sid Jr., John, Patrick and our families.

Michael C. Sablan
Pearl City, Hawaii

Back to the Bastille

By ROBERT ZARETSKY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

It was no surprise, of course, when France's new Socialist president, Francois Hollande, celebrated his election over the weekend at the Place de la Bastille. Once the site of the nation's most notorious prison, the square has long been the place that French leftists proclaim their victories. But while many commentators noted the symbolic importance of the Bastille, they overlook how this symbol has changed over time—a transformation that may hold a lesson for President-elect Hollande.

When a large crowd attacked and took the Bastille on July 14, 1789, the French Revolution was launched. That the prison held no political prisoners but instead a mere half-dozen petty criminals and lunatics, and that the crowd marked the event by chopping off and displaying the heads of two government officials, did little to mute the festive atmosphere.

On the contrary. Overnight, the Bastille became Paris' most successful tourist attraction. The decapitated heads were still fresh on the ends of the revolutionaries' pikes when Pierre-Francois Palloy, a wealthy businessman, with a work crew nearly as large as the crowd that stormed the Bastille, began leveling the medieval pile. Once razed, the prison's iron, brick and wood detritus was transmuted into souvenirs, including inkwells, domino sets, snuff boxes and daggers.

Even after the prison was gone, tourists from France and abroad surged to the rubble-strewn field where the Bastille once stood. One year after its destruction, Palloy held a celebratory ball among the ruins at which Parisians quite literally danced on the grave of the old regime. Uncertain what to do with the vast space, the revolutionary government let it go to romantic seed. If the revolution was indeed a return to the natural order of things, what better proof than the shrubs, flowers and weeds that began to sprout amid the scattered stones at the site?

Yet governments abhor vacuums. Upon becoming emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte announced his desire to build a massive arch celebrating his military victories on the site of the old Bastille. The dubious neighbors, however, put him off, and so instead Napoleon had the Arc de Triomphe built at the other end of Paris. As for the Bastille, Napoleon conceived a fountain featuring a gigantic statue of an elephant—yes, an elephant—to celebrate his imperial conquests. The plaster model placed there was to be replaced by one in bronze. Waterloo cut short these grandiose plans, however, and the model—growing leprous and pitted, a haven for rats and derelicts—remained until 1846.

In 1832, the peeling pachyderm was joined by a second statue. Not one commemorating the revolution of 1789, mind you, but instead the revolution of 1830, which brought the fall of King Charles X and his replacement with King Louis-Philippe. In order to both celebrate the events of 1830 and make Parisians believe the revolution had come full cycle, Louis-Philippe constructed a towering bronze column. At its marble base were entombed the bodies of those who died on the barricades in 1830, at its top was the gilded Genie de la Liberte, or Spirit of Liberty: a winged figure pirouetting on a globe and flaunting the broken chains of servitude.

Some historians, noting that the sprite is now called the Spirit of the Bastille, believe the site's meaning has faded with time. But in the wake of Sunday's event, perhaps the meaning of liberty has instead simply changed over time. Ever since 1848—and yet another revolution—France's political left has held its great demonstrations at the column's marble base. In 1936, the newly elected prime minister, Socialist Leon Blum, beamed (and held high a clenched fist) while a river of workers and students surged across the Place de la Bastille. And in 1981, the supporters of France's first Socialist president, Francois Mitterrand, converged at Bastille to celebrate his victory.

An avid student of history, Hollande surely grasped, as he addressed the massive crowd at Bastille, the remarkable parallels between his situation and those of his predecessors. In 1936 and 1981, the Socialist leaders rode to power in the midst of grave economic crises on the promise they would solve the problem with Keynesian policies: higher pay, shorter workweeks and increased social benefits. In both cases, they put into effect policies that went against the economic grain of neighboring countries; in both cases, within two years after they were introduced, the policies proved counterproductive and were countermanded.

Though he did not raise a clenched fist, Hollande did point his finger in the direction of Berlin and Brussels. Austerity, he declared, is no longer an option for France. Like his predecessors, Hollande promised to make France's economy more productive and its citizens more prosperous—promises that will entail serious negotiations with Germany over monetary policy.

What's at stake in these negotiations is the Spirit of Liberty. But that spirit no longer represents the sort of liberty she did in 1789 or 1848—liberty from oppressive monarchies—or even, as in 1936 or 1981, liberty from French industrialists and bankers. Instead, the oppressors many in France blame today are foreign governments and transnational institutions that, in the eyes of French voters, have inflicted on them a set of economic policies that are not only ineffective but punitive.

Whether Hollande will succeed where his predecessors failed remains to be seen. In an age of globalization, it will be even more difficult to carry out a policy of socialism in one country than it was in 1936 or 1981. More difficult, however, is to ignore the fears and hopes of the people. Hollande knows that while plaster elephants come and go, the memory of liberty abides.

Robert Zaretsky teaches French history at the Honors College of the University of Houston and is coauthor of France and its Empire Since 1870*. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times*.*

To Mom with love

By LORI BORGMAN
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

A young woman in her early 20s was sitting on the floor at the drugstore studying four Mother's Day cards spread in front of her. A lot of thought was going in to finding just the right card. It reminded me of the varied cards I gave to my own mother over the years:

deer mom, I luv u XOXO

Dear mom, you ar the bestest MOM in the werld. thankx for making cookees and birfday caks. do you lik the rozis?

Dear Mom, you cook and cleen and hardly ever yell at us. Happy mother's day.

Dear Mom, If they had a Best Mom contest you would win. Thanks for letting us get a dog and not getting mad when he wets on the sofa.

Dear Mom, Happy Mother's Day. You work so hard taking care of all of us. I hope you have the most relaxing day ever. Can I have a friend spend the night?

Dear Mom, Roses are red, Violets are blue, Other moms let their girls get their ears pierced, Why won't you? Happy Mother's Day!

Dear Mom, I'm sorry we argue. I don't mean to be sassy, the words just come out sometimes. Thanks for not giving up on me. Even though it might not seem like it, I'm glad you're my mom.

Dear Mom, Sorry I can't be home for Mother's Day, finals are almost finished. I will be home for the summer in another week. I hope you liked the necklace. Thanks for taking the pressure off by saying education is your and Dad's gift to me. I'm sending out resumes—hope someone is hiring!

Dear Mom, Happy Mother's Day. Who knew I'd be living so far away? Just when I finally mature and become a reasonably pleasant human being, I wind up moving to the other side of the country. Looking forward to when you and Dad come out this summer.

Dear Mom, Guess we didn't think about the wedding being so close to Mother's Day. Thanks for not minding. Everything was beautiful. I can't believe all the planning you did. No daughter could have asked for anything more.

Dear Mom, Your Mother's Day gift is sitting on the kitchen table, that is unless the kids have ripped into it. Haven't had time to get to the post office. Potty training is in full swing. House smells like urine. Made another trip to the ER last week with guess who. He should get the cast off in six weeks. Gotta go, the baby's crying.

Dear Mom, Happy Mother's Day. Were your ears burning? We said by the time we're through the teen years with this mob we're going to build a shrine to you and light candles every day. We're thrilled you're coming for high school graduation. The flowers were lovely, but I'm the one who should be sending flowers to you.

Dear Mom, How often I look at the kitchen table and see you sitting there, drinking a cup of coffee, catching me up on all the news. Hard to believe how the years have flown. The kids are grown now and having kids of their own. You'd be so proud. I wish you were here so I could say it again—thanks. And I love you. You will always live in my heart. Forever yours.

Lori Borgman is a columnist, author and speaker. Contact her at lori@loriborgman.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East to northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

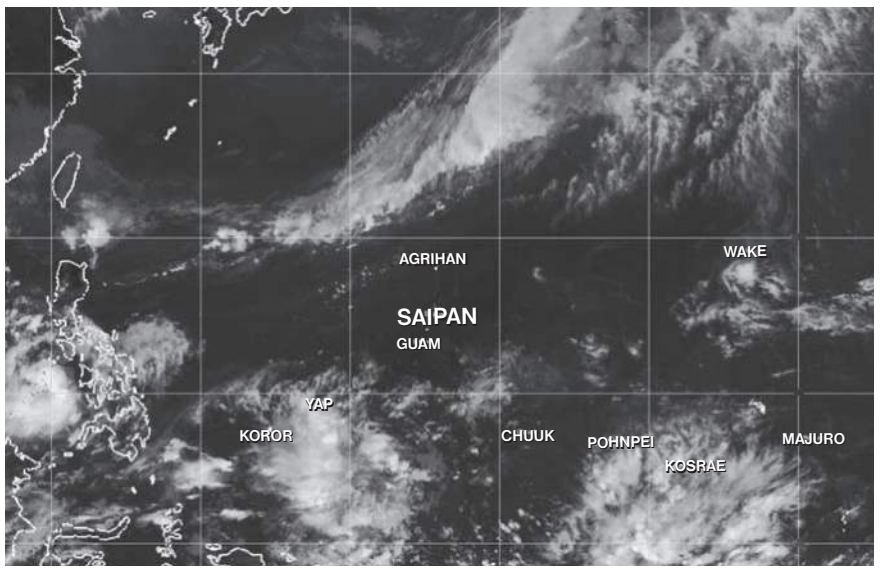
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲64	▼59
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲80	▼56
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲82	▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼47
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼81
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼50
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼50
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼45
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼57
Rome	Sunny	▲83	▼63
Salem	Sunny	▲73	▼44
San Francisco	Sunny	▲72	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼57
Tokyo	Sunny	▲68	▼49
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲74	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A warm front extends from 25N150E to a low centered near Iwo To island at 25N142E then continues southwestward as a cold front to beyond 130E at 20N. Cloudiness, scattered showers, and isolated thunderstorms are found near and up to 250 miles northwest of these features. A surface trough stretches southeastward from 12N130E to near 4N144E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between the equator and 9N from 134E to 144E including Palau and Yap. Another weak surface trough northwest of Chuuk is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 8N and 11N from 147E to 150E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 6N from 158E to 167E. This includes Kosrae but is just south of Pohnpei. A surface trough extends northeastward from 15N162E across Wake Island to 24N167E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between 15N and 19N from 163E to 173E including Wake.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
8:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
12:40 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:01 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		11:32 AM
Sunday	12:24 AM	12:25 PM
Monday	1:04 AM	1:15 PM
Tuesday	1:43 AM	2:04 PM
Wednesday	2:21 AM	2:51 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat)
Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sundays at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Thursdays at 6:30pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 12, 1999

HANMI, Chamber press for public hearing on wage act
The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands have asked Department of Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares to immediately order a public hearing in connection with the Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act. David Wiseman, chair of the Chamber's government relations committee and legal counsel of HANMI has sent a letter to Zachares telling him of the importance of holding a public hearing to discuss the proposed amendments. Amid calls by the Chamber to hold a public hearing on the controversial Resident Worker's Fair Compensation Act, Senate President Paul Manglona and House Speaker Diego T. Benavente have agreed to support the businessmen's proposal.

Govt takes another route to boost coffers
The Northern Marianas is preparing the groundwork for the establishment of the Board of Accountancy on the island in order to tap potential revenues that may be generated from holding examinations for Certified Public Accountants. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's special consultant for education, Dan Nielsen, said the CNMI is awaiting certification from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to allow the government begin board exams hopefully by November. The plan is expected to bring in much needed cash for the financially-troubled Commonwealth, as it explores other avenues to boost revenues.

May 12, 2000

Fitial to discuss labor reform bill with SHRM
The Commonwealth's chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, the CNMI's professional personnel organization, will be holding its monthly membership meeting on Thursday, May 18th, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. House Speaker Benigno Fitial will be the guest speaker at this month's meeting to discuss House Bill 12-039, or the Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act of 2000, which is not under consideration in the Legislature. The bill proposes changes to existing laws on business licensing and employment of nonresident workers. The program will provide members of the organization an excellent opportunity to improve their knowledge and understanding of the bill.

PSS spending down by $406K
Experience has taught the Public School System to take extra caution in disbursing allocated funds for its current fiscal year operations, spending only some $406,000 to date despite being more than halfway to the next fiscal year. On the same time frame last year, PSS already spent over $758,000 out of its annual $2.9 budget for operations. This translates to more than $300,000 decline in expenditure from October to May of FY 2000.

May 12, 2001

Party-mate blasts Babauta for alleged lack of support
Gov. Juan N. Babauta has reportedly decided not to support Richard Hofschneider as possible nominee to the Commonwealth Ports Authority board, prompting Hofschneider to question the Governor's alleged lack of priority for Tinian. Hofschneider, who ran for senator under the Babauta-Benavente team during the last general elections, said that ranking officials and personalities at the second senatorial district have suggested him as possible nominee to the vacant CPA board seat for Tinian but this was not met with approval by Babauta and his close advisers. "The Tinian delegation has supported my nomination to the board seat to replace Ray Cing, whose term already ended.

PSS administrators want add'l $1M to upgrade facilities, not salary hike
Saying that Public School System teachers get a "competitive" base pay of over $38,000, PSS administrators want to use a projected additional budget of about $1 million to upgrade and maintain facilities rather than to increase salaries. House education committee chairman Rep. Daniel Quitugua said he was surprised to learn during a Friday meeting with PSS administrators that they actually prefer to use any additional budget for fiscal year 2004 for renovation and maintenance purposes. The Governor's Office has informed the PSS that its budget for the next fiscal year would increase by slightly over $1 million, to be used specifically for salary increase of teachers, especially those in the early grades-kindergarten to third grade.

Maharlika

Scarce PH response to petition to retain consulate in NMI

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only two Philippine government offices have so far acknowledged receipt of the United Filipino Organization petition seeking for the retention of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan.

Bong Malasarte, president of the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI, disclosed yesterday that they received a response via postal mail from the office of Sen. Loren Legarda.

Legarda chairs the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. The letter dated March 28 was signed by Legarda's chief legislative officer, Ma. Victoria Evangelista.

"We have taken note of your concerns and these shall be raised at the appropriate forum," Evangelista said.

Malasarte said UFO received another response, also by postal mail, in a memorandum form from attorney Grace N. Andres, deputy secretary general of the House of Representatives' Office of the Speaker.

The memo endorses the petition and a letter from the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa supporting the appeal not to shut down the Consulate General so it could continue to ensure the protection of the rights and interests of the 8,000 Filipinos living and working in the CNMI.

Malasarte said they have yet to receive a reply from the Office of the President and the Department of Foreign Affairs, although he noted that they have heard from DFA through its Office of Personnel and Administrative Services.

About 5,300 signatures were gathered for the petition conducted by UFO from February to March in the hopes of preventing the imminent closure of the Consulate General after Oct. 31.

DFA said that due to budgetary constraints, the Saipan Consulate General will be among the posts that will be closed down within the year, and its responsibilities will be transferred to the Guam Consulate.

Malasarte said in an interview that while they are pleased to receive a response, they have yet to hear one from the DFA, which made the decision to shut down the consulate in the first place.

"It only goes to show how slow our government is in taking action on a very important and urgent matter," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malasarte said their group continues to follow up on the petition to provide updates to the Filipino community in the CNMI, particularly those who signed the petition.

"At this point, we're still hopeful that we will hear from them because our petition deserves a response from our government," he added.

Filipinos protest at China embassy over 'bullying'

MANILA, Philippines (AFP)—Hundreds of Filipinos demonstrated outside the Chinese embassy in Makati City on Friday over an escalating territorial row, with the protesters denouncing China's rulers as arrogant bullies.

Waving national flags, the protesters led called for Chinese ships to pull away from a disputed shoal in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) where both nations have had ships stationed for more than a month in an effort to assert their sovereignty.

"Our protest is directed at the overbearing actions and stance of the government in Beijing, which behaves like an arrogant overlord, even in the homes of its neighbors," said rally organizer Filipino-American Loida Nicholas Lewis.

The protesters, led by Akbayan members, carried placards that read: "China stop bullying the Philippines", "Make Peace Not War", and "China, Stop Poaching in Philippine Waters".

Organizers of the protest in Manila said similar rallies were planned at other Chinese embassies around the world on Friday as part of the "Global Day of Action against China's Bullying in the West Philippine Sea."

The territorial row centers on Scarborough Shoal, a tiny rocky outcrop in the West Philippine Sea about 230 kilometers (140 miles) from the Philippines' main island of Luzon.

The Philippines says the shoal is part of its territory because it falls within its exclusive economic zone.

But China claims virtually all of the West Philippines Sea, which is believed to sit atop huge oil and gas reserves, as its historical territory, even waters close to the coasts of other Asian countries.

The nearest major Chinese landmass to Scarborough Shoal is 1,200 kilometers northwest of the shoal, according to Filipino navy maps.

Protesters at Friday's rally said China's actions over Scarborough Shoal should send a signal to other Asian countries about their giant neighbor.

"We just want the international community to understand that if, today, they can do it to the Philippines, they can also bully the other claimants too," said one of the co-organizers of the rally, Jackson Gan.

Taiwan, Brunei, Vietnam and Malaysia also claim parts of the West Philippine Sea.

The stand-off began on April 8 when Philippine authorities detected eight Chinese fishing boats at the shoal. Philippine efforts to arrest the fishermen were thwarted when two Chinese surveillance vessels arrived at the scene. ***With Jamie Elona, INQUIRER.net***

Awards highlight Labor Day, OWWA 30th anniversary celebration

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guests listen to speakers at the celebration of Philippine Labor Day and the 30th anniversary of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration on May 2 at the Filipino Workers Resource Center of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

The presentation of recognition awards by the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration highlighted the celebration of Philippine Labor Day and the 30th anniversary of OWWA.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig and POLO officer-in-charge and welfare officer Julie Fabian led the awarding ceremony held on May 2 at the Filipino Workers Resource Center of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Saipan Simbang Gabi Group was presented with a recognition award for donating two classrooms for the Tangaoan Elementary School in Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur through the classroom project of the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Education, and Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.

Sponsors for the *Tuloy Aral* project were also acknowledged: Fe Calixterio, Armela Ham and family, Dr. Gabriel De Guzman, May Briones, Marcelo Masilungan, Saturnino Banting, Bayani Association, Saipan Building & Fixing Computer Users Group, Marieta Klingbergs, Eden Guillo, Ernesto Lineses, Clarence White, Chris Hilario, and Nenita Ta.

Fabian noted that most sponsors have pledged to increase their donations to support the education of more than one scholar.

"With the recognition, we are expecting to increase the sponsors for this year as donors from the previous years (2005-2009) have shown interest to reactivate their sponsorship for the project," she added.

Certificates of appreciation were also handed to the instructors—Marcelo Masilungan, Jousel Regilme, Rosendo Maceda, Domingo del Rosario, and Leopoldo Rodriguez, Jr.—who handled the computer course, automotive trouble shooting, dressmaking/tailoring, and Basic Nihongo that were offered for free during the first quarter of the year.

In her Labor Day message read by Fabian, Philippine Labor Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the occasion celebrates the perseverance and determination of all Filipino workers in their efforts to achieve success. She stressed that unity and cooperation is needed so that each Filipino can secure a decent job.

OWWA administrator Carmelita Dimzon said the agency has been serving Filipino workers for three decades, having helped them during the challenges of the Gulf War in 1990, the conflict in Lebanon in 2006, and the hostilities in Libya last year.

Dimzon's message, read by POLO's Antonette Ocon, said that it is the trust and unwavering support of Filipino workers worldwide that has given them strength to expediently address worker-related issues and concerns.

Nominations open for migration media awards

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nominations are now being accepted for the Migration Advocacy and Media or MAM Awards 2012.

The MAM Awards aims to recognize the "positive and significant" contributions of media in the Philippines and abroad in information dissemination and advocacy of news and concerns pertaining to migration and development.

The Inter-Agency Committee or IAC for the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and International Migrants Day in the Philippines, which fall in December and on Dec. 18, respectively, conceived the MAM Awards in 2011.

IAC, which is chaired by the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch and co-chaired by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, was established in 2007 through Administrative Order 202.

All individual, government, and private media outlets, institutions and practitioners in the fields of print, radio, movie and television, advertising and Internet-based in the Philippines and abroad, are eligible for the MAM Awards.

Categories for the awards are print journalism, radio journalism, television journalism, film media, interactive media, and advertisement awards.

Entries must be media works released or published from Oct. 1, 2011, to Sept. 30, 2012, and have raised public awareness on issues on Filipino migration, advocated the cause of Filipinos overseas, and/or promoted a positive image of Filipinos overseas.

All entries will be judged based on outstanding contribution in raising public awareness on issues related to Filipino migration; dedication and commitment in advocating for the rights, welfare and well-being of Filipinos overseas and/or their families in the Philippines; significant service in promoting a positive image of Filipinos overseas, and the migration and development nexus; and creativity, originality, and innovativeness of the media work.

Nominations may be made by any person or organization based in the Philippines or overseas. The nominating party may submit more than one entry in each category. Nomination forms may be downloaded at www.cfo.gov.ph.

Deadline for nominations is on Sept. 30. Results will be released on or before Nov. 15, with the MAM Awards ceremony to take place during the annual celebration of the International migrants Day in the Philippines on or before Dec. 18.

For more information, contact the MAM Awards Committee at ftingga@cfo.gov.ph or aomaga@cfogov.ph.

Actor, performer eyed for 'Pistang Pinoy'

The United Filipino Organization has asked the Philippine Consulate General office to look into the possibility of bringing in an actor or performer to Saipan as additional entertainment for the Filipino community during the 2012 *Pistang Pinoy*.

UFO president Bong Malasarte said yesterday that their group approached Consul General Medardo Macaraig to see what he can do, given that this might be the last *Pistang Pinoy* event for the Consulate before it shuts down after Oct. 31.

Pistang Pinoy or Filipino Fiesta is an annual event organized by UFO in celebration of the Philippine Independence Day in June. This year's festivity is slated for June 10 at the Civic Center grounds in Susupe.

"We are hoping that the Consulate will grant this request for all the Filipinos in the CNMI," said Malasarte.

He noted that members of the Filipino community are always thrilled to meet Filipino actors or performers and *Pistang Pinoy* would be the perfect venue to host a popular visitor.

"Our Consul General informed me that he will try his best and see what he can do," Malasarte said.

He said preparations are now in high gear and will be highlighted by performances and presentations of different Filipino groups. The event will also feature exciting activities, including a singing contest, a cooking competition, and a basketball tournament. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Samu't Sari

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Happy Mother's Day to Grandma Darling, Auntie Jen, and especially Mom Vicky. Greetings come from your grandkids, kids, and nieces and nephews.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy Mother's Day greetings to the Pangelinan sisters, mother Modesta, and niece! Enjoy and have a blessed one! From Randall and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy Mother's Day to our mom, Maria Sablan! You're the best! Love, Andy John and Riley James.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy Mother's Day to the greatest mommy in the whole wide world, Leslie Sablan! Thank you for all you've done for us. We love you very much! Love, Andy John and Riley James.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy Mother's Day to Diane Sablan and Maggie Masga! Enjoy and God bless, we love you very much. Greetings come from the kids and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Mothers Day to the most loving, caring and wonderful mother, Terry L. Kisa. Lots of love from your children and grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy Mother's Day to my mother, Rose Magofna! I've been through so much within the past years and I am one lucky child to have you in my life! Thank you very much for all you've done and for being by my side no matter what. I love you coz you're the best! Also, a Mother's Day greeting to Lin, Brigid, Tania, and Jamie Michelle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LAW DAY

U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco explains the role of the U.S. Attorney to the children of federal employees who attended a daylong introduction to the federal court, and to presentations from federal law enforcement agencies on Saipan as part of the U.S. District Court's observance of "Law Day" and "Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day" on Monday, May 7, 2012.

BILL BEZZANT

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona in the courtroom with visiting federal employees and their children.

BILL BEZZANT

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday and happy Mother's Day greetings go out to Florencia Chan, who is celebrating her special day today, May 12, 2012. Words are not enough to express the gratitude that you deserve for all that you have done for us throughout the years. We love you.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Grandpa Jack I. Taitano, in New York. We miss and love you.

Happy birthday greetings go out to Roger Dris, who is celebrating his special day today, May 12, 2012. As God adds life to your years, may He add years to your life! Happy birthday! God bless! Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Poll shows Americans' pessimism on economy growing

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans are growing more pessimistic about the economy and handling it remains President Barack Obama's weak spot and biggest challenge in his bid for a second term, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll.

And the gloomier outlook extends across party lines, including a steep decline in the share of Democrats who call the economy "good," down from 48 percent in February to just 31 percent now.

Almost two-thirds of Americans—65 percent—disapprove of Obama's handling of gas prices, up from 58 percent in February. Nearly half, 44 percent, "strongly disapprove." And just 30 percent said they approve, down from 39 percent in February.

These findings come despite a steady decline in gas prices in recent weeks after a surge earlier in the year. The national average for a gallon of gasoline stood at $3.75, down from a 2012 peak of $3.94 on April 1.

U.S. presidents have limited ability to affect gas prices, which are determined in international markets. However, the party out of power always blames whoever is president at the time for high gas prices, as Republican Mitt Romney is doing now and as Democrat Obama did in 2008 when George W. Bush sat in the Oval Office.

Of all the issues covered by the poll, Obama's ratings on gas prices were his worst.

The public's views tilt negative on his handling of the overall economy, 52 percent disapprove while 46 percent approve. In February, Americans were about evenly divided on his handling of the issue.

The economy is the No. 1 issue in the presidential race, thanks to the deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression and one of the shallowest-ever recoveries. While the recession officially ended in summer 2009, unemployment remains stubbornly high, at 8.1 percent in April. Some 12.5 million Americans are out of work.

The increasing skepticism toward the recovery tracks a weakening overall economy as measured by the gross domestic product, and matches economic growth downgrades by many economic forecasters.

Against this background, the weak economy looms as a huge liability for Obama, and any drop in public confidence in his ability to deal with it can threaten his re-election prospects.

Bing to duel Google with Facebook-friendly format

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft's Bing search engine is heading in a new direction as it drills deeper into Facebook's social network and Twitter's messaging service to showcase information unlikely to be found on Google.

The changes, unveiled Thursday, will reshape how Bing displays its search results. It represents Microsoft's most dramatic shift in Internet search since the software maker introduced Bing as a "decision engine" nearly three years ago.

Microsoft Corp. is counting on the new format to loosen Google's stranglehold on the lucrative Internet search market. In the process, Microsoft hopes to turn a profit in its online division, which has lost more than $6.3 billion since Bing's June 2009 debut.

Bing replaced "Live Search," a mostly futile attempt to challenge Google. Microsoft touted Bing as a Google alternative that would provide more meaningful results by helping people make important decisions, such as picking a doctor and finding the best time to buy an airline ticket.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

FDA advisers recommend approving weight loss drug

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Advisers to government health regulators late Thursday recommended that they approve sales of what would be the first new prescription weight-loss drug in the U.S. in more than a decade, despite concerns over cardiac risks. A panel of expert advisers to the Food and Drug Administration voted 18-4 to recommend approval of Arena Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s lorcaserin, concluded that its benefits "outweigh the potential risks when used long term" in overweight and obese people. The company noted that the FDA has set a target date of June 27 for deciding whether to approve sales of the drug. It's intended for people who are obese or for people who are overweight and have at least one weight-related health problem, such as high blood pressure.

US applications for unemployment aid dip to 367K

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of people applying for U.S. unemployment benefits ticked down last week following a sharp drop the previous week. Applications are falling again after rising for most of April, suggesting hiring could pick up this month. Weekly applications dropped 1,000 to a seasonally adjusted 367,000 in the week ending May 5, the Labor Department said Thursday. The previous week's figure was revised up slightly. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, fell by 5,250 to 379,000. It was the first decline since late March.

United States District Court for the
Northern Mariana Islands,
Bankruptcy Division

NORTHERN MARIANNA ISLANDS
RETIREMENT FUND

Bankruptcy Case No. 12-00003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the United States Trustee's Motion to Dismiss Case ("motion") is set for hearing on June 1, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. The motion sets forth the grounds regarding why the United States Trustee has determined that the Debtor is ineligible to be a chapter 11 debtor, and accordingly, has requested that the case be dismissed. The full contents of the motion is on file with the Court, and a copy can be obtained from the Court. Any response or opposition to the motion must be filed with the Court on or before May 18, 2012 (14 days before the hearing) at: U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands , 2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 500687, Saipan, MP 96950 USA
If you mail your response to the Court, you must mail it early enough so the Court will receive it on or before the deadline stated above. The Court may disregard any response filed untimely. You must also mail or transmit a copy of any response or opposition to the moving party at: Office of the United States Trustee, Attn: Curtis Ching, Asst. U.S. Trustee, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 602, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.
If you fail to file a response to this motion within such time period, the Court may treat such failure as a waiver of your right to oppose the motion and may grant the requested relief.

Dated: Honolulu, Hawaii May 9, 2012,

Terri H. Didion,
Trial Attorney for U.S. Trustee

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Nation

Kidnap-slaying suspect kills himself; 2 girls OK

GUNTOWN, Miss. (AP)—As a SWAT team closed in, a fugitive accused of killing a Tennessee mother and daughter before disappearing for nearly two weeks with her two other children killed himself Thursday evening, allowing authorities to safely recover the kidnapped girls, police said.

Adam Mayes, 35, shot himself in the head after authorities, acting on a tip, found him and the girls near New Albany, Miss., said Guntown Police Chief Michael Hall.

Mayes later was pronounced dead at a hospital, Daniel McMullen, FBI special agent in charge of Mississippi, said at a Thursday evening news conference.

Alexandra Bain, 12, and Kyliyah Bain, 8, were taken to a hospital in Memphis, Tenn., for observation. They appeared to be unharmed, McMullen said.

A special operations team from the Mississippi Highway Patrol and officers from the state Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks rescued the girls, McMullen said.

Mayes had been charged with first-degree murder in the April 27 deaths of Jo Ann Bain, 31, and her daughter, Adrienne, 14. Their bodies were found buried outside Mayes' home a week after they were reported missing by Jo Ann Bain's husband.

Mayes' wife, Teresa, also is charged with first-degree murder in the deaths. She told investigators he killed Jo Ann and Adrienne Bain at their Whiteville, Tenn., home so he could abduct the two young sisters, according to court documents.

"Thank God it's over and the babies are safe," said Teresa Mayes' sister, Bobbi Booth. "That's all that mattered. I'm just glad it turned out the way it did."

Teresa Mayes told investigators that after she saw her husband kill the two in the garage at the Bain home, she drove him, the younger girls and the bodies to Mississippi, according to affidavits filed in court. She faces six felony counts in the case: two first-degree murder charges and four especially aggravated kidnapping charges.

Authorities refused to comment on the motive for the April 27 slayings and abductions.

Mayes' mother-in-law, Josie Tate, told The Associated Press that Mayes thought the missing sisters might actually be his daughters and it caused problems in his marriage to her daughter, Teresa, who is jailed in the case.

"She was tired of him doting on those two little girls that he claimed were his," Tate said.

Adam Mayes' mother, Mary Mayes, also has been charged with conspiracy to commit especially aggravated kidnapping.

Mary Mayes' attorney, Somerville attorney Terry Dycus, said his client maintains she is not guilty.

The hunt for Adam Mayes and the two young sisters encompassed parts of at least three counties in northern Mississippi. State and local law enforcement agents on Thursday searched a densely wooded area about 10 miles from Mayes' home near Guntown.

Dee Hart, who organized a Tuesday night vigil for the girls in Bolivar, Tenn., said their prayers were answered.

"No words can express our elation," she said by phone. "We know prayers brought those babies home. I can't wait to see them."

Obama criticizes Romney as 'backwards on equality'

SEATTLE (AP)—President Barack Obama wasted little time casting Republican rival Mitt Romney as "backwards on equality" on Thursday, eager to transform his historic embrace of same-sex marriage into donor enthusiasm and grassroots vigor.

Just one day after announcing his support of the top gay rights issue, Obama was attending a lavish West Coast fundraiser hosted by actor George Clooney in Los Angeles' Studio City area, the heart of celebrity gay marriage activism. At the same time, his campaign rolled out a Web video claiming Romney would roll back some rights for same-sex couples

White House spokesman Jay Carney brushed aside questions about the timing of the attack on Romney, saying that Obama and Romney had differed on issues of gay rights even before the president declared his support for same-sex marriage.

"Gov. Romney is for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would enshrine discrimination into our founding legal document," Carney said. "The president thinks that's wrong. So their positions were starkly different before yesterday."

In Seattle, where he was attending two fundraisers, Obama witnessed the support first hand as his motorcade passed a woman holding an infant and a sign that said: "Thank you! Mr. President for standing up for my mommys!"

He drew big cheers from supporters at Seattle's historic Paramount Theater when he said his vision for a better America applies to everyone, "no matter what you look like, no matter what your last name, no matter who you love."

Without referring directly to marriage, Obama expanded on the theme of same-sex equality.

"We are moving forward to a country where every American is treated with dignity and with respect and here in Washington you'll have the chance to make your voice heard on the issue of making sure that everybody, regardless of sexual orientation, is treated fairly," Obama said. "You'll have a chance to weigh in on this. We are a nation that treats people fairly."

ACROSS THE NATION

Prosecution rests in John Edwards trial

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—Prosecutors rested their campaign fraud case against John Edwards on Thursday after 14 days of dramatic and often unflattering testimony that focused on the once-promising politician's infidelity and the secret money they say he used to cover up the affair he feared would derail his presidential ambitions. In its final act, federal prosecutors played a tape of a 2008 national television interview in which the Democrat repeatedly lied about his extramarital affair with the woman who was part of his campaign staff and denied fathering her baby. On Friday, Edwards' defense team will have its turn and plans to ask U.S. District Court Judge Catherine C. Eagles to dismiss the case for lack of evidence.

CDC: Young adults ignoring skin-cancer warnings

ATLANTA (AP)—The warnings about skin cancer from too much sun don't seem to be getting through. Half of U.S. adults under 30 say they have had a sunburn at least once in the previous year—about the same as a decade ago, according to a government survey released Thursday. In fact, the modest progress reported five years ago has been wiped out. Not only that, but women in their 20s are going to tanning salons almost twice a month on average. Experts say that even one blistering burn can double the risk of developing melanoma, an often lethal form of skin cancer.

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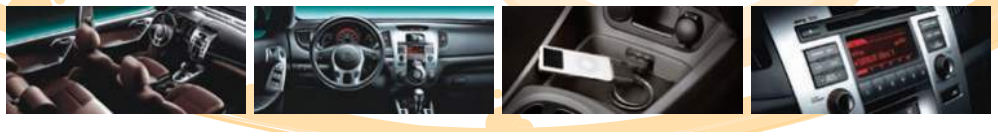

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Asia

Russian jet crash throws Indonesian sale in limbo

MOUNT SALAK, Indonesia (AP)—The crash of a new, Russian-made jetliner into a jagged Indonesian volcano during a flight to impress potential buyers has thrown doubt on dozens of plane sales just as Moscow seeks a comeback in foreign markets. All 45 people aboard were feared dead.

Search and rescue teams climbed through the mist-shrouded, jungly terrain for nearly 20 hours to reach the site where the plane roared in at nearly 480 mph (800 kph) Wednesday, exploding and raining debris down a nearly vertical slope.

When the weather clears, bodies will have to be hoisted by nets and ropes onto hovering choppers, said Gagah Prakoso, a spokesman for the national search and rescue agency.

"We're still searching for survivors," he said. "But it doesn't look good."

The Sukhoi Superjet-100—Russia's first new model of passenger jet since the fall of the Soviet Union two decades ago—was supposed to kick-start the nation's efforts to modernize its fleet and resurrect its neglected aerospace industry.

Indonesia, the fourth stop of a six-nation "Welcome Asia!" tour, was one of Sukhoi's brightest hopes, accounting for a big chunk of the 170 orders taken globally so far.

Kartika Airlines, Sky Aviation and Queen Air—among dozens of airlines to have popped up in the nation of 240 million to meet the growing demand for cheap air travel in the last decade—together were aiming to buy at least 48.

"Our plan is to order 30 planes, gradually until 2014, to strengthen our fleet," said Arifin Seman, one of the top executives at Kartika. "But we will wait for the result of the investigation before making any further decisions."

Krisman Tarigan, president-director of Sky, which has placed orders for 12 planes, agreed.

Plane found

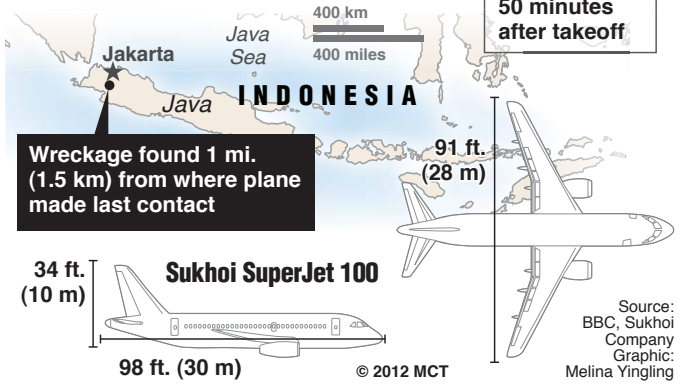
A Sukhoi Superjet 100, the first new Russian passenger plane in more than two decades, crashed during a promotional flight.

Asia tour

Tour launched May 3 with plans to visit six countries

■ Previous stops ○ Planned stops

• About 45 people on board; most were members of the media



China tightens restrictions on activist's family

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities in the hometown of activist Chen Guangcheng have notched up restrictions on members of his extended family while he awaits permission in Beijing to travel abroad under an agreement between China and the U.S.

Chen Guangcheng's brother and sister-in-law have been placed under house arrest, his nephew is in police detention, and several other relatives face some form of restriction on their movements in their village in Shandong province, according to Chen, his lawyers and a rights group.

Chen's flight from abusive house arrest in Shandong and into the protection of U.S. diplomats—which led to an agreement with Beijing to let him study in the U.S. accompanied by his wife and children—has exposed the impunity of local officials and embarrassed the central government.

"I feel that Shandong's retribution against me has already started," Chen said in an interview Thursday from a hospital where he is being treated for injuries suffered during his dramatic escape from his guarded farm house.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Thursday the U.S. made inquiries with China and "expressed our concern should there be any sense of reprisal."

Chen's nephew, Chen Kegui, is believed to have been detained in relation to a clash with officials who reportedly broke into his home after the activist's escape in late April.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Red Cross stops work in much of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The Red Cross has suspended operations across much of Pakistan following the killing of a British nurse working for the organization late last month, the group announced Thursday. The move means many thousands of people will go without medical and other development assistance for the duration of the suspension. In a statement, the group said that operations would be stopped in the provinces of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and Sindh. Work had already stopped in a third of the country's four provinces, Baluchistan, following the nurse's abduction there.

Pakistan says it test-fires short-range missile

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's military says it has successfully test-fired a short-range missile capable of delivering a nuclear warhead. A military statement says the Hatf III Ghaznavi with a range of 290 kilometers (180 miles) was launched Thursday at the conclusion of the annual field training exercise of Army Strategic Force Command. It is the second such test by Pakistan in the past two weeks. On April 25, Pakistan launched what it said was an intermediate-ranged missile after its archenemy India conducted its own missile test. The country routinely test-fires what it claims are indigenously developed missiles.

Suicide attackers kill 5 in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban militants dressed in police uniforms blew themselves up after being caught trying to sneak through a checkpoint Thursday in eastern Afghanistan, killing five people, authorities said. Police at the checkpoint in Paktika province's Yayakhil district became suspicious of the men and told them to stop, said provincial police chief Dawlit Khan Zadran. The men refused, triggering an hour-long gunbattle during which two attackers were fatally shot and the remaining four detonated vests rigged with explosives, Zadran said. Two civilians and three policemen were killed in the blasts, and another three police officers were wounded.

World

Twin car bombs in Syrian capital kill dozens

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Twin suicide car bombs exploded outside a military intelligence building and killed 55 people Thursday, tossing mangled bodies in the street in the deadliest attack against a regime target since the Syrian uprising began 14 months ago.

The bombings fueled fears of a rising Islamic militant element among the forces seeking to oust President Bashar Assad and dealt a further blow to international efforts to end the bloodshed.

The first car bomb went off on a key six-lane highway during the morning rush hour, knocking down a security wall outside the government building and drawing people to the scene, witnesses said. A much larger blast soon followed, shaking the neighborhood, setting dozens of cars ablaze and sending up a gray mushroom cloud visible around the capital.

Syrian state TV video showed dozens of bodies, some charred or dismembered, strewn in the rubble or still inside damaged cars. An Associated Press reporter at the scene saw medics in rubber gloves picking through the site for human remains amid the two craters that were blasted into the asphalt.

AP

In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, a Syria man, right reacts as flames and smoke rise from burned cars after two bombs exploded, at Qazaz neighborhood in Damascus, Syria, on Thursday May 10, 2012.

The Interior Ministry, which oversees the police and security services, said 55 people were killed and more than 370 were wounded. Officials said suicide bombers detonated explosives weighing more than 1,000 kilograms (2,200 pounds).

"The house shook like it was an earthquake," Maha Hijazi said, standing outside her home nearby.

World powers seeking to halt Syria's unrest condemned the attack and urged all sides to adhere to a cease-fire brokered by U.N. and Arab League envoy Kofi Annan.

The Obama administration condemned the attack and expressed concern that al-Qaida may be increasingly taking advantage of the country's prolonged instability.

Argentina gender rights law: A new world standard

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Activists say Argentina now leads the world in transgender rights after giving people the freedom to change their legal and physical gender identity simply because they want to, without having to undergo judicial, psychiatric and medical procedures beforehand.

The gender identity law that won congressional approval with a 55-0 Senate vote Wednesday night is the latest in a growing list of bold moves on social issues by the Argentine government, which also legalized gay marriage two years ago. These changes primarily affect minority groups, but they are fundamental, President Cristina Fernandez has said, for a democratic society still shaking off the human rights violations of the 1976-1983 dictatorship and the paternalism of the Roman Catholic Church.

Activists and academics who have tracked gender identity laws and customs worldwide said Thursday that no other country has gone so far to embrace gender self-determination. In the United States and Europe, transgender people must submit to physical and mental health exams and get past a series of other hurdles before getting sex-change treatments.

Argentina's law also is the first to give citizens the right to change their legal gender without first changing their bodies, said Justus Eisfeld, co-director of Global Action for Trans Equality in New York.

"The fact that there are no medical requirements at all—no surgery, no hormone treatment and no diagnosis—is a real game changer and completely unique in the world. It is light years ahead of the vast majority of countries, including the U.S., and significantly ahead of even the most advanced countries," said Eisfeld, who researched the laws of the 47 countries for the Council of Europe's human rights commission.

Marcela Romero, who was born a man but got a sex-change operation 25 years ago, spent 10 years arguing in Argentina's courts before a judge ordered the civil registry to give her a new identity card listing her gender as female.

"It's something humiliating ... many of us have had to endure psychiatric and physical tests," she told The Associated Press on Thursday. "With this law we'll no longer have to go through this."

Romero, 48, said she personally knows 40 people who had to get judicial approval for sex-change operations, and are still on waiting lists. The law should help them get the treatment they need, she said.

Young Style

Love bites: Let youngsters help create little sweet treats for Mom

CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

When baking treats for Mother's Day making miniature versions are great and they don't have to be perfect as mom will enjoy that they are made with love.

By JUDY HEVRDEJS
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

This is a story about baking perfect sweets.

Not those multi-tiered constructions you see on TV or desserts by pastry pros with not a single crumb out of place.

This is about baking sweets for Mom or Grandma by adding an ingredient that makes them perfect—lots of love.

Sure, cakes may be lopsided, cookies crooked and the decorations deliriously overwhelming, judging by the multicolored nonpareils that keep popping up around my kitchen days after a decorating extravaganza with a couple of young bakers.

Who cares? Not Mom.

"When a mom or grandma receives something special that their kids or grandkids made, it's wonderful," says Amy Atlas, mother of two young boys. "It's a little piece of their heart."

Atlas, the author of "Sweet Designs: Bake It, Craft It, Style It" (Hyperion, $27.99) and blessed with a grandma who taught her to bake, is a wizard at creating fabulous dessert tables. She also likes letting kids help in the kitchen, especially when it nurtures their inner Picasso.

"If they're decorating a sugar cookie or helping decorate a cake or cupcake, let kids have fun with it and be their own little artist and take pride in it," says the New Yorker.

And because family time in the kitchen is also about creating traditions, "Why not do something where you're baking with your kids and make a special gift for Grandma? Or maybe Dad's getting in the kitchen with the kids and making it for Mom," she says. "It's this bonding moment in the kitchen."

Atlas regularly cooks and bakes with her family but also understands life's realities. For her tickled pink poundcake bites, she uses a purchased poundcake, which she cuts into cubes, then dips into tinted melted white chocolate.

So maybe Dad will stir up a scratch cake for our petite sweets, a cake our family baked as children. Or your teens will use a brownie mix to make brownie hugs. And everyone will help decorate with colorful sprinkles or piped buttercream rosettes.

What's important?

"Who doesn't love to get something home-baked from their kids," says Atlas. Whether Mom's 35 or 75, bake something sweet for Mother's Day.

PETITE SWEETS

Prep: 2 hours
Cook: 45 minutes
Makes: 16 to 24 little cakes

Note: Adapted from a recipe for Florentine pastry squares in "The New Antoinette Pope School Cook Book," by Antoinette and Francois Pope. You can bake the batter in a 9-inch square pan (for 16 roughly 2-inch squares) or use a 13-by-9-inch pan, for 24 shallower, roughly 1 ½-inch squares.

Ingredients:

2 ¼ cups cake flour, lightly spooned into cup
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup each: sour cream, milk
1 teaspoon vanilla or orange extract
1 ½ sticks butter
1 ¼ cups sugar
2 large eggs, well beaten, to measure ½ cup
Orange icing, see recipe below
Decorations (candied violets, pastel-tinted buttercream frosting rosettes, etc.)

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Sift together flour, baking powder, soda and salt; set aside. Combine sour cream, milk and vanilla; set aside. Lightly butter a 9-inch square or 13-by-9-inch baking pan. Line with waxed paper; butter and flour paper.

2. Cream butter in a bowl with an electric mixer, 1 minute. Add sugar, a little at a time, beating until blended after each addition. Add eggs a little at a time to butter mixture, beating at high speed until incorporated. Scrape down sides. Lower speed. Add flour mixture, ½ cup at a time alternately with ¼ cup liquids; beat after each addition only until smooth.

3. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake until cake tests done, 35 minutes for a 13-by-9-inch pan. (For the 9-inch pan, after 35 minutes, increase heat to 375 degrees, bake another 10 minutes.) Remove cake from oven; cool on wire rack.

4. When cake is room temperature, loosen sides with a knife; invert onto wire rack. Carefully remove paper. Cut cake in squares with a serrated knife; place squares right side up on cake rack set over waxed paper.

5. Spoon icing over each square; use a small spatula to cover sides. Let glaze dry 30 minutes. Add more sifted confectioners' sugar and orange juice to icing remaining in the bowl to make a slightly thicker mixture. Ice squares a second time. Decorate as desired. Store in a cool place, or refrigerate then let come to room temperature to serve.

Orange icing: In a bowl, mix ¼ cup orange juice with 2 tablespoons melted butter. Add 3 cups confectioners' sugar (sifted to removed lumps) little by little, beating until smooth. Add more sugar if needed to make a glaze that coats the back of a spoon.

Nutrition information:

Per square for 24 squares (without icing): 155 calories, 7 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 35 mg cholesterol, 21 g carbohydrates, 2 g protein, 85 mg sodium, 0 g fiber.

BROWNIE HUGS

Amy Atlas' book, "Sweet Designs," offers a recipe for fudge-y brownies that calls for cutting the baked brownies into stars, apple shapes or diamonds before dipping them in melted chocolate. She suggests that time-crunched cooks use a boxed mix.

1. Prepare fudge-type chocolate brownie mix; pour into baking pan lined with parchment that has been lightly buttered. Bake; cool in pan on wire rack. Remove from pan; cover and let sit overnight.

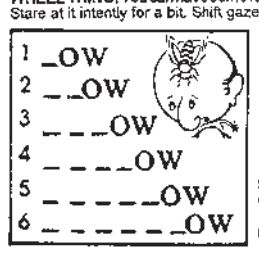
2. Remove parchment. Cut in shapes with a knife or cookie cutter dipped in hot water, then wiped off. Chill, 1 hour.

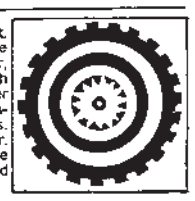
3. Melt 12 ounces semisweet chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl (on medium, stirring every 30 seconds). Dip brownie tops in chocolate. Set on wire rack, chocolate side up. Refrigerate, 10 minutes. Decorate with nonpareils, colored sugars or candies. Refrigerate to set chocolate.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

WHEEL THING! You can have some fun with the wheel-like figure at right. Stare at it intently for a bit. Shift gaze to a light-colored wall and you're likely to see a yellowish ball. Or, cut figure out. Rotate it with thumbs. Outer rim plus inner design tend to revolve independently of black and white circles. Or, stick a pin through center. Give figure a whirl. Inner circle edge and outer rim (tread) tend to turn gray.





SAY WHAT! One word is misstated in each old saying: 1. Crime and tide wait for no man. 2. Barking dogs never fight. 3. Look before you weep. 4. A fool and his mummy are soon parted. Can you correct them?

Change: 1. Crime to time. 2. Fight to bite. 3. Weep to leap. 4. Mummy to money.

'OW GOES IT STEPWORDS

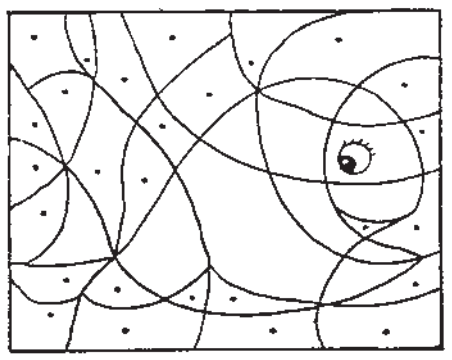
'OW GOES it? Well, let us see. You are asked to find six progressively longer words ending in OW (see above). Definitions are as follows:

1. Palindrome word for a lollapalooza.
2. Mealtime fare in a mess hall.
3. Feeling good all over.
4. Having nothing inside, as a log.
5. Bird with a long, tapered tail.
6. "It's only a day away," sings Annie.

What's that?

Afterwards, see if you can make up another set of progressive OW words.

1. Wow. 2. Chow. 3. Aglow. 4. Hollow. 5. Swallow. 6. Tomorrow



WHA DO? Use a blue crayon (or ordinary pencil) to shade each segment that bears a dot. What creature will emerge?

PLAY BALL! Storm is over, players are ready — batter up! Add these colors by number: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. blue.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

OMNIVORE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible twosome: Move, iron.

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Dog's hair isn't growing back

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I recently read your column on pet allergies. I have an English Setter that has had fleas and a skin problem. "Ladybird" has lost a lot of hair, and it doesn't seem to be growing back. Can you give me some tips on getting her hair to grow back? Is medicine available for this? -- Edward S. Owensville, Mo.

DEAR EDWARD: Hair loss can be symptomatic of many conditions, not just in English Setters but many breeds. So if you haven't taken Ladybird to the veterinarian yet, schedule an appointment. The vet should rule out any underlying illness, including thyroidism, and can give you advice on looking for a skin or food allergy.

The frequent scratching that occurs with a flea infestation can result in scratched and broken skin, sometimes leading to an infection. And, many dogs are allergic to the "flea dust" left behind by fleas -- literally, their droppings -- and can continue having a reaction, including hair loss and frequent scratching, after the fleas are gone.

A skin infection can be treated with antibiotics. An allergic reaction can be treated, in the short term, with a steroid, which will reduce irritation and swelling. Be sure to dust, vacuum and thoroughly clean your home, including bedding and furniture, to reduce the allergens -- including flea dust that was left behind -- in Ladybird's environment.

Keep in contact with your vet about any improvement or lack of improvement in her condition. Her hair could take several weeks to grow back fully, but you want to make sure the source of the skin problem is dealt with.

■ ■ ■

Send your comments, questions or pet care tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, who made the following sage observation: "No matter how much cats fight, there always seem to be plenty of kittens."

■ If you are a stay-at-home mom, you probably won't be surprised by a recent study that found lower levels of stress in mothers who work outside the home than in those who stay with their kids all day.

■ George Reeves is best known for playing the title role in the 1950s TV show "Adventures of Superman." The role was a risky one, though—not in front of the camera, but during his numerous public appearances. It seems that fans wanted to test the strength of the Man of Steel, so they often kicked and punched him. At a 1953 appearance in Detroit, one boy pulled out his father's loaded .45 Army Colt and aimed it at Reeves' chest. By telling the boy that the bullets would bounce off his own chest and ricochet into the crowd, harming others, Reeves managed to get the boy to put the gun down.

■ Though unenforced (and likely unenforceable), there is a law on the books in Tennessee that bars atheists, preachers and duelists from holding elected office.

■ Are you lissotrichous? If you don't have curls in your hair, you are. Of course, you may not be able to tell if you are atrichous (bald), a condition that may be caused by trichotillomania, the compulsion to pull out your own hair.

■ If you've been married for 40 years or more, you can be pretty confident that the union will last. Only 1 in every 1,000 marriages of such duration end in divorce.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "I have only one superstition. I make sure I touch all the bases when I hit a home run." -- Babe Ruth

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MAGIC MAZE ● MICRO WORDS

E M J E H E F C A Y T P W U R
P N M L D J T C M P F I H R T
F M I C R O F I L M O H D A E
B Z C X V T C B L A S C B B N
R Q R O M R K O I O O O O O A
H F O D O B Z R R R R R R R V
Y W D V V T R C Q C C C O C O
N L O K I H F I I I I I I I R
D L T C A Z X M M M M M W M C
T V U S R Q O N M K J I H F I
E V A W O R C I M H O R C I M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Microamp, Microbar, Microbat, Microbe, Microbic, Microchip, Microcode, Microdot, Microfilm, Microhm, Microlite, Micron, Microsoft, Microvan, Microvolt

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	×		−		19
−		×		+	
	×		−		10
×		+		÷	
	+		×		13
10		14		12	

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 8 9

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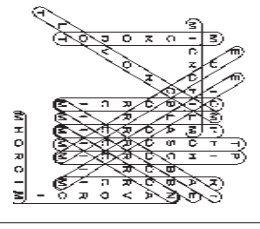
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	12		14		10
13	1	×	8	+	5
	÷		+		×
10	4	−	2	×	7
	+		×		−
19	8	−	3	×	9

Big and small ABC's

From a super-size "S" to a teeny tiny "T," these one-of-a-kind, hands-on ABC's make learning the alphabet creative and fun for the whole family.

GIANT ABC's

Draw and cut out large block alphabet letters on 12-inch-by-12-inch pieces of poster board, one for each letter. If you wish, you may start with just a few letters, such as the letters of your child's name.

Take the first letter you have cut out and tell your child that you are going to look for things that begin with the sound of that letter. Decorate the top of each letter by clipping pictures from magazines or collecting small items and gluing them to the corresponding letter. For example, glue leaves you collect on a fall walk to an "L," buttons to a "B" and a real zipper on a "Z." Apply a coat of lipstick to your child's lips and let her smother the letter "K" with kisses. For the letter "J," cut the letter into several pieces. Reattach the pieces with brass paper fasteners to make flexible joints. We covered our "J" with junk from the kitchen junk drawer!

Save your collection of these creative letters and practice the sounds again and again.

MINI ABC REFRIGERATOR MAGNETS

Cut poster board in 2-1/2-inch-by-2-1/2-inch squares. Write an alphabet letter freehand on each square with a marker. Or, go to your word-processing program on your computer, find your favorite font and print out letters the size of the squares.

Look for creative fonts on programs specifically designed for scrapbooking or making stationery and greeting cards. Cut out and glue the printed letters to the squares.

Decorate the handwritten or printed letters with craft supplies, small beads, buttons, ribbon, glitter, paints in squeeze bottles, or simply color them with crayons and markers.

Attach a piece of self-sticking magnetic strip (available at hardware and craft stores) on the back of each letter. Make duplicates of common letters so that you'll have plenty on hand for displaying a word or even a complete sentence on your refrigerator door. Store extras in a small box.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Pasta Primavera

Celebrate spring with a bright pasta dish full of vegetables.

- 12 ounces whole wheat- or Jerusalem artichoke-flour spaghetti
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium (6- to 8-ounce) onion, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 pint grape tomatoes
- 12 ounces asparagus, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 medium zucchini, cut into half-moons
- 1/4 cup water
- Salt
- 1 can no-salt-added garbanzo beans (chickpeas), rinsed and drained
- 1 medium carrot, grated
- 1/4 ounce Parmesan cheese, grated (about 2 tablespoons)
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- Fresh basil leaves, for garnish

1. Heat 6-quart saucepot of water to boiling on high. Cook pasta as label directs.

2. Meanwhile, in 12-inch skillet, heat oil on medium. Add onion and garlic; cook 2 to 3 minutes or until golden, stirring occasionally. Add grape tomatoes; cook 5 minutes or until beginning to soften. Add asparagus, zucchini, water and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Cover and cook 5 to 7 minutes or until tomatoes begin to burst. Stir in beans and carrot; cook 2 to 3 minutes or until beans are heated through.

3. Reserve 1/2 cup pasta cooking water. Drain pasta; return to saucepot and add vegetable mixture, Parmesan, lemon juice, reserved cooking water and 1/4 teaspoon salt; toss until combined. Divide among serving bowls; garnish with basil. Serves 4.

Strawberry Streusel

Oats, almonds, and shredded coconut are baked into a crispy topping over fresh strawberries.

- 1 pound strawberries, hulled and cut into quarters
- 1/4 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds
- 2 tablespoons shredded unsweetened coconut
- 1 tablespoon agave syrup
- 2 teaspoons canola oil
- 1 pinch salt

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.

2. In 1 1/2-quart shallow baking dish, spread strawberries.

3. In medium bowl, toss oats, sliced almonds, coconut, agave syrup, canola oil and pinch salt until well mixed. Sprinkle over berries.

4. Bake 25 minutes or until golden brown. Serves 4.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/. (c) 2012 Hearst Communications, Inc. All rights reserved

MCT

Jennifer Holmes, aka Dear Lillie, uses easy-care fabrics and easy-living neutral colors in her family room in Williamsburg, Virginia.

10 DECORATING DOS

1. Use neutrals for your main upholstered pieces.
2. Bring the outdoors indoors—use moss, branches, flowers, etc.
3. Use things you already have—repurpose them.
4. Shop consignment stores—you can find many great pieces at these places.
5. Find antique malls—they offer many hidden treasures.
6. Go for comfort—make sure your furnishings are comfortable.
7. Try things—what's the worst that can happen? If you paint a room a bold color and you end up hating it, just paint it again.
8. Embrace paint—it can completely transform a room, a wall or a piece of furniture.
9. Think darker walls with light furniture—I love the way this looks and it has such an elegant feel.
10. Let your personality show through—you want your home to reflect you.—Jennifer Holmes, aka "Dear Lillie"at http://dearlillie-blog.blogspot.com

Casual elegance decor passes child-proof test

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—When Jennifer Holmes was growing up in New Hampshire, she was always decorating her bedroom, doing something to reflect whatever interested her at the time.

"Mom loved to decorate and my parents were very good about letting us decorate our own rooms and display our style, within reason," she says.

Her flair for home fashions followed her through college and into adulthood. After getting a degree in graphic arts, she studied interior architecture at the New York School of Interior Design and Fine Art.

Now the 30-year-old mother of two girls—Lillian Annabel, 3, and Lorelei Wren, 11 months—Jennifer has turned her personal interest into a full-time business, including a decorating blog—"Dear Lillie", dearlillieblog.blogspot.com.

Her online boutique at the website sells many of the items she makes and designs, accessories like handmade pillows in all shapes and sizes and children's growth charts that look like giant rulers. The website also features tutorials on how to make what Jennifer's projects—slipcovered ottoman, ruffled lampshade and coffee table makeover, to name a few.

Living in Williamsburg, Va., where her husband, Jonathan, coaches basketball at the College of William and Mary, Jennifer has transformed an 1,800-square-foot townhouse into a showcase of ideas that caught the attention of Better Homes and Gardens magazine. A magazine crew recently spent a day there photographing her holiday look for possible inclusion in the fall Christmas Ideas special interest publication.

"I love for each of my spaces to have an elegant feel," says Jennifer, carrying Lorelei on her hip, while showing visitors around.

"However, as the mother of two young girls, I know it's important that each room in our home is comfortable and functional as well.

MCT

Jennifer Holmes, holding daughter Lorelei, straightens a frame on the display of family photographs along the steps of their townhome in Williamsburg, Virginia. Jennifer, a photographer, put the photos in dollar store frames and painted the 2-foot squares of precut plywood from Lowe's in neutral tones.

"It is definitely possible to mix elegance with comfort and have a space that is both beautiful looking and practical.

"I stick with a mostly neutral palette and focus on textures and patterns."

Jennifer describes her decorating style as "casual elegance" or "traditional with a modern twist."

"You can have children and still have a nice-looking, fashionable home," she says.

To make living with kids easy, Jennifer puts slipcovers on chairs, sofas and ottomans in fabrics that are easy to wash and put back on again. Pillows are child-proof, too.

"You just need to find creative ways to store toys—like under chairs with slipcovers that fall to the floor—and make sure you don't have furniture with sharp edges," she says.

To make decorating affordable, she shops consignment shops and antique malls, looking for individual pieces that work with what she already has and can then serve different functions as their lifestyle changes.

For instance, Jennifer has wing-back chairs with neutral slipcovers so they look more traditional and tailored. For now, they are in the living room with an animal-print ottoman between them and an antique spinning wheel nearby. Eventually, she hopes to use the chairs at each end of a dining room table when they get another home with more space. Another favorite find is a large French cabinet that stores linens upstairs.

"Going into a store and buying a set of matching furniture—this is one of the biggest mistakes people make," she says.

"If you do this, it doesn't look personal at all. You want your home to be a reflection of you and your style."

Cleaning a rusty grill

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I left my propane grill out on the back deck over the winter. We didn't get much snow or rain, and actually used it from time to time, so I didn't cover it. Now I notice some rust on the underside of the grill. What's the best way to clean it and prevent it from happening again?—Janice B., Columbia, Md.

A: You can buy a cleaner that removes rust stains at your local hardware or home-improvement store, or if the rust is mostly surface-based, try wiping the area first with a damp cloth. If not all the rust is removed, try scrubbing the area with a steel-wire brush or steel wool.

If the interior of the grill or the grates are rusty or caked with old charcoal and burnt-on food, use the same cleaning methods to scrub them off. Then, clean the interior well (for readers who use charcoal grills, remove the old ashes and charcoal and then clean).

Once clean, you'll want to seal the rust-damaged areas. On the outside of your grill, a high-temperature paint will keep air and moisture away from the metal and won't flake away quickly. The interior should be cleaned between each grilling session and closed to prevent rain from entering. Grill racks should be washed after cleaning and each use, and a thin coat of cooking oil sprayed or rubbed on them so they stay rust-free between uses.

If you're not going to use the grill for a long time, say several weeks, regardless of the season it should be cleaned, covered with a grill cover and moved out of direct rain and sunlight. Some owners coat the exterior of the grill with a thin coat of cooking oil if they plan to store it for some time.

HOME TIP: Got a tough cleanup of grill racks? Make a foamy vinegar-baking soda paste and apply to the racks, let them sit for a few minutes, then scrub away burnt-on food and grease.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Life & Style

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TIME
ARE YOU MOM ENOUGH?
Why attachment parenting drives some mothers to extremes—and how Dr. Bill Sears became their guru
BY KATE PICKERT
Jamie Lynne Grumet, 26, and her 3-year-old son
www.time.com

Time cover shows mom breastfeeding 3-year-old

NEW YORK (AP)—Shocking or no big deal? A woman breastfeeding her 3-year-old son is the cover photo of this week's Time magazine for a story on "attachment parenting," and reactions ranged from applause to cringing to shrugs.

The photo showed Jamie Lynne Grumet, 26, a stay-at-home mom in Los Angeles who says her mother breastfed her until she was 6 years old. She told the magazine in an interview that she's given up reasoning with strangers who see her son nursing and threaten "to call social services on me or that it's child molestation."

"People have to realize this is biologically normal," she said, adding, "The more people see it, the more it'll become normal in our culture. That's what I'm hoping. I want people to see it."

Some questioned why the magazine used the photo of Grumet, a slim blonde pretty enough to be a model, to illustrate a story about a style of childrearing that's been around for a generation. The issue includes a profile of the attachment parenting guru, Dr. Bill Sears, who wrote one of the movement's bibles, "The Baby Book," 20 years ago.

Mika Brzezisnki, co-host of MSNBC's weekday morning program "Morning Joe," suggested on the air that the cover was needlessly sensational: "I'll tell you why it bothers me—because it's a profile of Bill Sears!"

On Twitter, the cover inspired X-rated jokes along with concerns that the child might be teased when he's older. But on many message boards, there was debate about whether it's OK to breastfeed beyond babyhood.

Bobbi Miller, a mother of six who lives in Arkansas, expressed disapproval in a tweet and said in a phone interview, "Even a cow knows when to wean their child." Of the cover, she said: "Why would this even be out there? It's ludicrous. It's almost on the verge of voyeurism."

But Bettina Forbes, co-founder of an organization called Best for Babes that promotes breastfeeding and supports women who want to nurse their children beyond babyhood, said she hopes the cover "will make mainstream America less squeamish" about women breastfeeding children of any age. "It's high time we talk about these things," she said.

Reaction to the cover underscored a cultural rift between traditional childrearing and what some have deemed "extreme parenting." The attachment philosophy encourages mothers to respond to their babies' every cry and form close bonds with near-constant physical contact through "co-sleeping" (letting them sleep in the bed with parents rather than in cribs) and "baby-wearing" (carrying them on slings instead of pushing them in strollers).

Retail chains including Target, Wal-Mart and Safeway did not immediately respond to requests for comment on whether the magazine, which goes on sale Friday, would be displayed in stores.

Time Managing Editor Rick Stengel said he had not heard of any retailers concerned about displaying the cover. But he acknowledged that the image is "provocative. We're posing an interesting question about a subject that couldn't be more important—how we raise our children. People have all kinds of mixed feelings about that."

This image provided by Time magazine shows the cover of the May 21, 2012 issue with a photograph of Jamie Lynne Grumet, 26, breastfeeding her 3-year-old son for a story on "attachment parenting." AP

AP source: Britney Spears in as 'X Factor' judge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears is coming to the rescue of Fox's "The X Factor," the singing contest in search of a ratings boost.

The Grammy-winning pop star has signed on as a judge for the show's second season, a person familiar with the deal said Thursday. The person was not authorized to publicly discuss details and spoke on condition of anonymity.

A call to Spears' publicist seeking comment was not immediately returned.

"The X Factor" debuted last fall to ratings that fell short of creator Simon Cowell's sky-high predictions. The show's slate was wiped nearly clean in January when judges Paula Abdul and Nicole Scherzinger exited along with host Steve Jones.

That left Cowell and music producer Antonio "L.A." Reid as judges on "X Factor," which is based on Cowell's hit U.K. series.

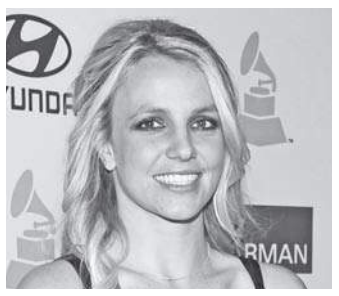
Spears signed a one-year, $15 million contract, E! News reported Wednesday, citing an unidentified source.

Fox declined to comment on Spears or other cast additions for "The X Factor."

Shock jock Howard Stern, however, didn't hold back at a news conference in New York touting his own new TV gig.

"I think Britney is going to stand there and eat a lollipop and wear a sexy outfit and I don't expect great opinions out of her. I'll tune in and see what kind of a train wreck she is," said Stern, who debuts Monday as a judge on NBC's "America's Got Talent."

Spears, 30, is a former child performer who became an international star with her 1999 debut album, "Baby One More Time." More hits followed, including "Oops!.. I Did It Again" and "Toxic," but her personal life was difficult, including rehab spells and time in a psychiatric ward.


Spears

Last fall, as she toured in support of her seventh album, the hit "Femme Fatale," she told The Associated Press in London: "I hear the older you get, the wiser you get and the more you know what you want—so hopefully it'll be a good year."

The "X Factor" job comes at a time of change. In April, her fiance, Jason Trawick, got approval from a Superior Court judge to become a co-conservator over the singer, joining her father in that role.

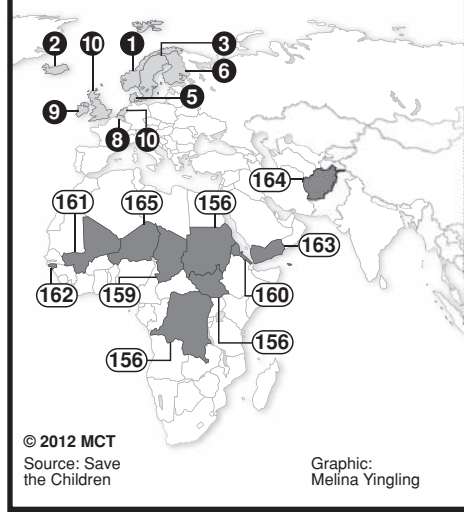
Earlier this year, Cowell was coy about rumors that Spears, as well as Fergie and Janet Jackson, were under consideration for the show.

He was also guarded about how "X Factor" will fare when it returns this fall. After Cowell predicted it would be a hit in its freshman outing with 20 million viewers, the show averaged around 12 million weekly viewers, which is respectable but not a blockbuster.

Melanie Amaro was the winner of the show's first season.

Mother knows best

The State of the World's Mothers report examines the well-being of mothers and children in 165 countries, based on factors such as health, education, economic status and nutrition.



1. Norway
2. Iceland
3. Sweden
4. New Zealand
5. Denmark
6. Finland
7. Australia
8. Belgium
9. Ireland
10. Netherlands
10. U.K.

156. DR Congo
156. South Sudan
156. Sudan
159. Chad
160. Eritrea
161. Mali
162. Guinea-Bissau
163. Yemen
164. Afghanistan
165. Niger

Jury ends day with no verdict in Hudson killings

CHICAGO (AP)—Jurors finished a second day of deliberations Thursday without a verdict in the trial of the man charged with murdering Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson's mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew.

The jury is scheduled to resume deliberations Friday morning in the trial of Hudson's former brother-in-law, William Balfour. Judge Charles Burns has ordered the jurors sequestered at a hotel to ensure they won't view media coverage of the trial.

Balfour, who turned 31 on Thursday, pleaded not guilty to three counts of first-degree murder in the October 2008 slayings. The former gang member faces a mandatory life prison sentence if he's convicted on all charges.

Prosecutors say Balfour murdered Hudson's mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew in an act of vengeance because his estranged wife at the time, Hudson's sister Julia Hudson, refused to reconcile with him.

With no surviving witnesses to call on to testify, prosecutors spent two weeks presenting a largely circumstantial case against Balfour.

His attorney, Amy Thompson, seized on that during her closing argument, saying prosecutors had failed to meet the burden of proof needed to convict Balfour of murdering the three victims.

Prosecutors presented 11 days of testimony and called 83 witnesses, starting with Jennifer Hudson, who was an "American Idol" finalist before winning the 2007 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in the film adaptation of the musical, "Dreamgirls."

‘American Idol’ now down to the last 3 finalists

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollie Cavanagh couldn’t make “American Idol” voters love her.

The soaring 18-year-old vocalist from McKinney, Texas, was eliminated from the Fox singing competition Thursday after it was revealed she received the fewest viewer votes.

The spritely balladeer rebounded in recent weeks after the judges took issue with Cavanagh’s lack of stage presence, but she was dismissed after crooning Journey’s “Faithfully” and Bonnie Rait’s “I Can’t Make You Love Me” for her solo performances Wednesday.

“Idol” host Ryan Seacrest said 70 million viewer votes were cast this week.

The three finalists remaining in the competition are booming 20-year-old gospel singer Joshua Ledet of Westlake, La.; bluesy 21-year-old pawn shop worker Phillip Phillips of Leesburg, Ga.; and aspiring 16-year-old pop diva Jessica Sanchez of San Diego.

“This is a real journey,” said “Idol” judge Jennifer Lopez, who performed before the results were revealed. “This is not an easy show for these kids. For me, that’s why I feel so much when I’m watching you, all of you, not just Hollie.”

The three remaining finalists will return to their hometowns before taking the “Idol” stage next week.

AP

In this May 9, 2012 photo released by Fox, contestant Hollie Cavanagh performs on the singing competition series “American Idol,” in Los Angeles.

Obama jokes with Clooney at star’s gala fundraiser

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Clooney played the suave host, Chef Wolfgang Puck whipped up something for dinner, and President Barack Obama and about 150 of his Hollywood set donors enjoyed a few laughs at Clooney’s good humored expense.

Obama reminded the crowd that his famed Hope poster from the 2008 was derived from a photograph of Obama sitting next to Clooney when Obama was a U.S. senator. Clooney had been in Washington advocating on behalf of Darfur.

“This is the first time that George Clooney has been photo-shopped out of a picture,” Obama said. “Never happened before, never happen again.”

In this crowd, Obama didn’t even need to mention gay marriage to get a vigorous applause. “Obviously,” the president said obliquely, “yesterday we made some news.”

The event, held under a stretched transparent tent outside Clooney’s sprawling tudor-styled canyon home, raised nearly $15 million, a record for a single fundraiser.

The guests paid $40,000 to attend, accounting for about $6 million of the evening’s financial haul for Obama’s campaign and the Democratic Party. The remainder came from a raffle for small dollar donors. Two winners—both women—got to take part in the dinner and, even though Clooney was the host, they brought their husbands.

“We raised a lot of money because people love George,” Obama said. “They like me; they love George.”

Then seriously, he added: “He seems to occupy a constant state of grace, and uses his extraordinary talents on behalf of something truly important.”

For Obama, the A-list party was not only a financial hit, it gave the president the kind of Hollywood buzz a Republican seldom gets. But the glitzy event, with its glamour and wealth, also has its risks and it set up a stark contrast with Obama’s mission on Friday to highlight the plight of struggling homeowners in Nevada.

Among those at the dinner were such actors and performers as Robert Downey Jr., Barbra Streisand and her husband James Brolin, Jack Black, Salma Hayek and Tobey Maguire, who shared a table with Clooney and Clooney’s girlfriend Stacey Kiebler.

Heading to Clooney’s house, along the exclusive canyon roads, families gathered at dinner time to gawk, wave and cheer the presidential motorcade. Children manned a lemonade stand with a sign: “Presidents drink free.”

‘30 Rock’ returning for final 13-episode season

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC says “30 Rock’”s next season will be its last.

The network said Thursday the much-acclaimed sitcom will have an abbreviated run of 13 episodes in its seventh season before calling it quits.

The show has been a critical favorite since premiering in 2006. It has won numerous awards, as have its creator-star Tina Fey and co-star Alec Baldwin. Many high-profile guest stars, including Matt Damon, Elizabeth Banks and Al Gore, have appeared on the show. But the series was never a ratings smash, and this year its audience has dwindled to an average 3.5 million viewers.

NBC will join other broadcast networks in unveiling full new prime-time schedules for advertisers next week. NBC will make its upcoming lineup official on Sunday.

Stern to critics: Watch me before judging me

NEW YORK (AP)—New “America’s Got Talent” judge Howard Stern says that his critics should watch before attacking him.

Stern debuts Monday as Piers Morgan’s replacement on NBC’s summertime talent show. Yet a group that calls attention to bad language and risqué content on television has already written to advertisers asking them to stay away. The Parents Television Council said the radio shock jock’s addition “will likely result in a sharp increase in explicit content.”

In an hour-long, expletive-free news conference on Thursday, Stern dismissed those concerns and said that he fully understands that “America’s Got Talent” is a family show.

“I really feel a responsibility to the people who love this show already,” Stern said. “In no way do I want to get in the way of it. I want to broaden it and make it better.”

Stern said his critics “are entitled to their opinion. They just sound awfully foolish when they haven’t seen the show.”

Still, his reputation precedes him. Stern noted that before an appearance on “The View” Thursday, executive producer Bill Geddie came over to instruct Stern on what he could or couldn’t say on the air. “I know the rules,” Stern said. “Bill, I’m 58 years old. I feel like I’m 14” getting a lecture, he said.

“Hopefully America will like this and put everybody’s fears to rest,” he said.

NBC moved the show’s base from California to Newark, N.J., to accommodate Stern’s satellite radio schedule when he agreed to replace Morgan. He said he has taken the role of being the “honest” judge who doesn’t sugarcoat things for contestants.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Investors pay $850,000 for Batman No. 1 comic

DALLAS (AP)—A collector has sold a Batman No. 1 comic to an investment partnership for $850,000. Dallas-based Heritage Auctions arranged the private transaction and announced the sale Thursday. Heritage vice president Ed Jaster says the collector had paid $315,000 for the comic about two years ago. The comic book cost 10 cents when it was published in 1940. Jaster says the comic is in near-mint condition. The identities of the seller and investors were not revealed. Jaster says Batman first appeared in Detective Comics No. 27 in 1939 and became so popular that he got his own series the next year.

ABC’s ‘Cougar Town’ wins reprieve, moving to TBS

NEW YORK (AP)—”Cougar Town” is about to get a new address. The ABC sitcom, a cult favorite but never a ratings blockbuster on broadcast television, will be moving to cable’s TBS, the network said Thursday. TBS has ordered a fourth season of the sitcom, which was facing cancellation by ABC. New episodes are scheduled to begin airing early next year. In addition, TBS has acquired rights to repeat the show’s first three seasons of 61 episodes originally seen on ABC. “Cougar Town” stars Courteney Cox as a recently divorced mom struggling with the challenges and pitfalls of her new single life. The series also stars Brian Van Holt, Christa Miller, Ian Gomez, Josh Hopkins and Busy Philipps.

Happily unmarried woman can’t take mom’s nagging

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am in a relationship with someone I graduated from school with, so we have known each other for a number of years. We are both divorced. Because I’m an only child, my mother has always been protective and controlling. She hasn’t recovered from my divorce, although it happened more than 10 years ago, and constantly finds fault with my current relationship.

She argues with me almost weekly that I should get married because it “looks bad for her” that I live with this man, and “in the sight of God this isn’t right.” One minute she doesn’t want me in a relationship, the next she’s telling me I need to be married. I respect her beliefs, but don’t think we should get married just because she wants us to.

I was married long enough to realize that a piece of paper doesn’t make it right, so why force the issue? I love my mother, but her nagging is making it extremely difficult not only for me but for my relationship. How do I handle this?

STRESSED-OUT ONLY CHILD

DEAR STRESSED OUT: You may be an only child, but you are a child no longer. You are entitled to live your life the way you wish.

While there are legal protections for a wife that a live-in does not enjoy, if you prefer not to formalize your relationship, you should not be pressured into it. The next time your mother starts in, tell her firmly you will not argue the point and change the subject.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I’m a single mother of three kids, ages 10, 8 and 7. Their father and I have been divorced for two years. He moved 300 miles away and sees the kids mainly in the summer and on holidays. He has remarried, and she has children as well.

My problem is my kids feel he treats her children better than he treats them. I try hard not to badmouth him, but from what they tell me it’s a one-way street. He has told our kids that he loves them more than I do, and that he wishes he didn’t have to pay child support. It hurts me to see them hurt.

What can I do? We don’t have a good relationship. He refuses to listen to anything I say. I don’t want the kids to hate their father, but unless he changes, they will. They have already asked me if they can talk to the judge to get their visits made fewer and shorter.

PROTECTIVE MOM IN VIRGINIA

DEAR PROTECTIVE MOM: You cannot control the behavior of another adult, much as you might wish to. Your children are intelligent and they have already gotten the picture. Unfortunately, they are still too young to be able to convince a judge to shorten their visits or spend time with their dad less often. But as they enter their early teens they will be. Help them to be patient and ride it out in the meantime, because they have no other option.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law is demanding to know why I won’t accept her friend request on Facebook. Personally, I don’t consider her a friend and prefer not to allow her access to my Facebook page. How can I politely and honestly answer her questioning?

PREFER TO DECLINE

DEAR DECLINE: Because she is forcing the issue, be forthright and answer her question by telling her that while she may be your sister-in-law, you do not feel personally close enough to her to be comfortable having her review your activities and thoughts on a daily basis.

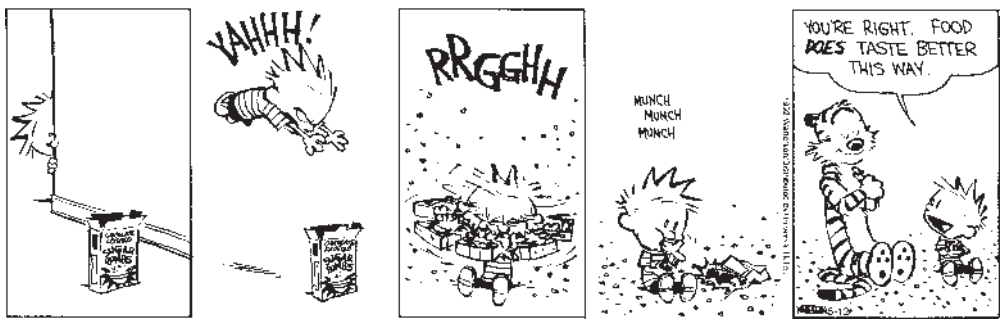
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

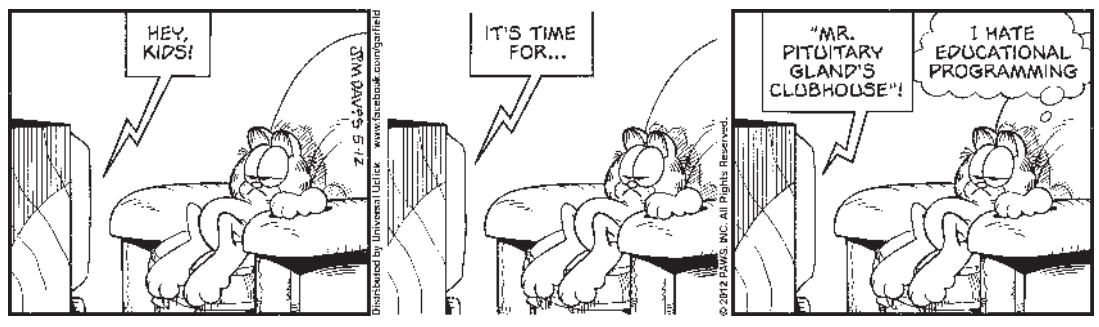
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



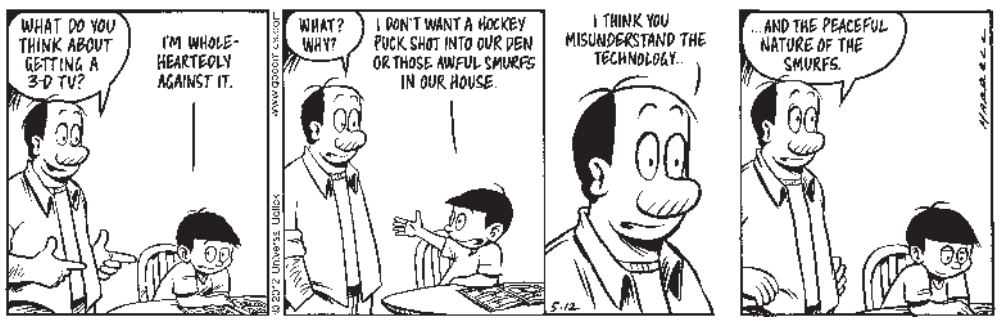
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT GETTING A 3-D TV?
I'M WHOLE-HEARTEDLY AGAINST IT.
WHAT? WHY?
I DON'T WANT A HOCKEY PUCK SHOT INTO OUR DEN OR THOSE AWFUL SMURFS IN OUR HOUSE.
I THINK YOU MISUNDERSTAND THE TECHNOLOGY..
...AND THE PEACEFUL NATURE OF THE SMURFS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

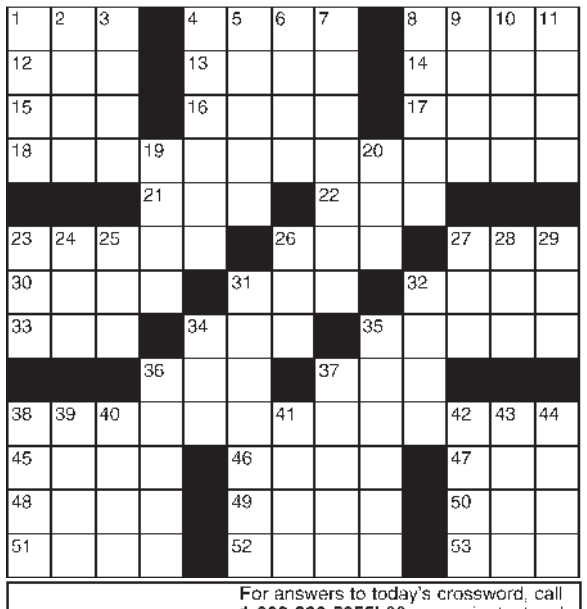
ACROSS
1 Winter woe
4 On in years
8 Decelerate
12 You can't stand to have one
13 Rid of rind
14 Comedy Central's "—.0"
15 Pismire
16 Ear-related
17 Capri or Wight
18 Veep under Jefferson and Madison
21 "Of course"
22 Early love boat?
23 Check recipient
26 Raw rock
27 — Mahal
30 Hot tubs
31 Average guy?
32 Precursor to Surrealism
33 Annoy
34 Energy
35 Chest wood
36 Shriner's topper
37 Resistance measure
38 "Syriana" Oscar winner
45 Long ride?
46 Physiques, for short
47 Fuss
48 Tehran's land
49 Duel tool
50 Bookie's earnings, for short
51 Crooked
52 Redgrave or Fontanne
53 Greek vowel

DOWN
1 Banner
2 Highway division
3 Doing
4 Orbit's furthest point
5 Microsoft founder
6 Idle or Bogosian
7 State with conviction
8 Reek
9 Missing
10 Norway's capital
11 Timely query?
19 Deli loaves
20 Rage
23 Omega preceder
24 Spring mo.
25 Tie up the phone
26 "Alley —!"
27 Wee bit
28 Oklahoma city
29 Cookie holder
31 Hussy
32 Showroom sample
34 Cribbage scorer
35 Picked
36 Facade
37 Bygone
38 Smooth-talking
39 Green land
40 Muscat's place
41 Imitate
42 Church part
43 Tend texts
44 Relaxing exercise

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	O	W	■	R	O	T	■	P	U	R	E	E
U	S	A	■	A	P	O	■	A	R	E	N	A
S	I	N	■	H	A	R	B	I	N	G	E	R
H	E	N	■	S	Q	U	I	D	■	■	■	■
I	R	A	Q	■	U	S	N	■	W	E	R	E
■	■	■	U	S	E	■	G	L	A	M	O	R
I	G	L	O	O	■	■	■	E	L	U	D	E
S	N	A	I	L	S	■	H	I	T	■	■	■
M	U	T	T	■	A	L	I	■	Z	O	N	E
■	■	■	■	Q	U	O	T	A	■	K	O	I
H	A	M	B	U	R	G	E	R	■	R	I	G
A	T	A	R	I	■	I	C	E	■	A	S	H
S	T	R	A	P	■	C	H	A	■	S	E	T

Yesterday's answer 5-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Biggs, 34; Tony Hawk, 44; Emilio Estevez, 50; Ving Rhames, 53.

Happy Birthday: Boldness will help you solve professional problems. Don't let someone else do the talking for you. Share your thoughts and intentions, and gain support. You can set a standard or start a trend if you follow your heart when it comes to making greater progress. Productivity is the name of the game. Your numbers are 4, 7, 15, 22, 27, 35, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Change things up a bit. Do something different. Help someone you have a vested interest in or take a closer look at what you can do to improve your own look or attitude. Love is highlighted, and unique encounters will keep you engaged. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Leave the past behind. Dwelling on something you cannot change will lead nowhere. Focus on learning something from your experiences, and utilize your current skills to turn what you have to offer into an interesting venture. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Spread yourself around. Your knowledge and experience will help others make wise choices. Time spent updating your look will lead to compliments and will prepare you for something that can raise your earning potential. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Your help and dedication will lead to an interesting connection. A partnership that takes you to a unique destination will also tweak your interest in how you can contribute to your community. Listen, but don't make promises. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep your emotions in check. You don't want to seem difficult to deal with, especially to someone you are trying to achieve an equal partnership with or who can affect your reputation. Stay calm and avoid being overindulgent. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stick to what you do best and avoid emotional manipulation or demands being put on you. Protect your assets and present what you propose to do. Keeping your plans simple and cost-efficient will lead to success. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put love, entertainment and taking care of yourself first. You are overdue for some "me" time and should do whatever makes you happy. Love is on the rise, and improving your current relationship or meeting someone if you are single is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't get pulled into a situation that you have worked hard to avoid. Emotional matters will escalate, and it's important to protect your health and welfare. A financial position must be taken seriously, and your paperwork must be put in order. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Discuss your feelings and intentions. A commitment can be made, and plans can be put into motion. Changes to your living arrangements will help your financial situation as well, as long as you don't have ulterior motives. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can get things done if you are open with the people your plans will affect. Making changes to your home, family or assets will ease your stress and help you plan for the future. Strive for quality, not quantity. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You call the shots. If you want something done right, you have to be prepared to make demands and pressure the people needed to help you achieve your goals. A tendency to take on too much will be your downfall. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let the past hold you back. Forget about the past and focus on the here and now and how you can utilize what you know in order to reach your current goals. Creativity and hard work will pay off. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, trendy and determined to make things work.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6				3		
	8		2				5	
3			8		4			7
		5				1	9	
				8				
	1	8				2		
8			3		1			5
	4				7		2	
		9				6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	1	4	8	9	7	3	5
7	8	9	5	1	3	2	6	4
5	4	3	7	6	2	9	8	1
8	7	6	1	2	5	3	4	9
1	5	4	9	3	8	6	7	2
3	9	2	6	4	7	5	1	8
9	1	8	3	5	6	4	2	7
2	6	7	8	9	4	1	5	3
4	3	5	2	7	1	8	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BEST FRIENDS ARE FOREVER **Solution: 8 letters**

C	C	H	E	D	I	U	G	L	E	V	A	R	T	E
O	O	O	U	K	L	A	T	R	A	L	F	R	S	R
M	A	N	U	M	I	O	A	O	A	U	A	F	E	A
P	C	E	S	N	O	H	Y	I	G	E	T	E	B	P
A	H	S	F	U	S	R	C	A	H	E	H	U	G	S
N	T	T	A	T	L	E	S	O	L	C	T	S	M	C
I	E	E	M	P	P	T	Ⓛ	Ⓞ	Ⓥ	Ⓔ	T	H	D	H
O	A	R	I	S	P	P	A	I	R	R	R	O	E	E
N	R	C	L	C	A	R	E	N	O	S	C	P	U	R
E	S	E	Y	S	O	R	E	N	T	H	S	P	L	I
F	O	S	M	T	U	A	G	C	A	G	E	I	A	S
I	U	I	N	D	E	E	N	N	I	U	M	N	V	H
L	L	E	W	J	U	D	G	E	T	A	I	G	H	E
E	M	G	N	I	N	E	T	S	I	L	T	F	U	D
L	F	O	C	U	S	E	H	C	A	E	T	E	E	M

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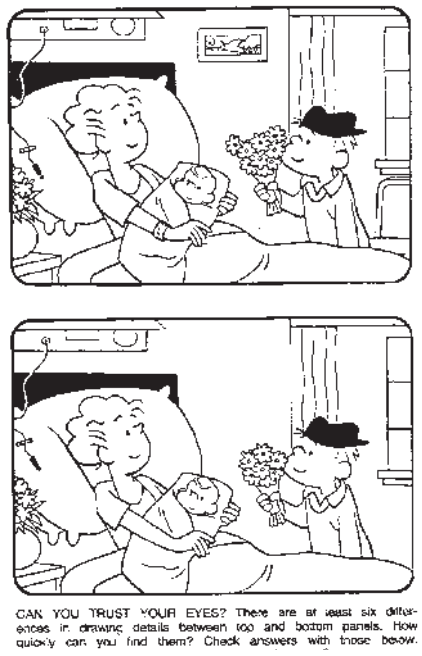
Appreciate, Best, BFF, Care, Changes, Cheer, Cherished, Close, Coach, Companion, Consultant, Counsel, Dear, Family, Focus, Gain, Guide, Heart, Honest, Hugs, Humor, Judge, Laughs, Life, Listening, Love, Loyal, Meet, Mentor, Mutual, Need, Pair, Secrets, Share, Shopping, Smile, Soul, Spare, Special, Strong, Talk, Teaches, Tears, Times, Together, Travel, Valued, Well

Yesterday's Answer: Chocolate

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Wishing Well®

6	3	2	3	5	2	3	8	3	4	5	2	6
S	L	Y	O	L	O	O	P	K	B	O	U	P
2	4	3	6	8	3	5	8	4	8	2	6	4
A	U	T	E	E	O	V	A	I	C	R	A	L
8	2	6	3	6	7	5	7	2	6	7	6	5
E	E	K	T	W	F	E	O	O	I	G	T	E
3	2	3	8	3	5	8	6	2	8	3	7	3
H	N	E	F	F	N	U	H	C	L	U	W	T
4	6	5	2	4	8	3	8	4	5	3	5	6
D	C	D	O	B	L	U	I	R	U	R	R	A
5	3	7	5	2	8	7	8	6	4	7	6	4
E	E	I	S	U	F	L	E	N	I	L	D	D
2	7	4	6	4	7	6	2	7	4	2	7	7
R	C	G	O	E	L	R	S	E	S	E	A	R

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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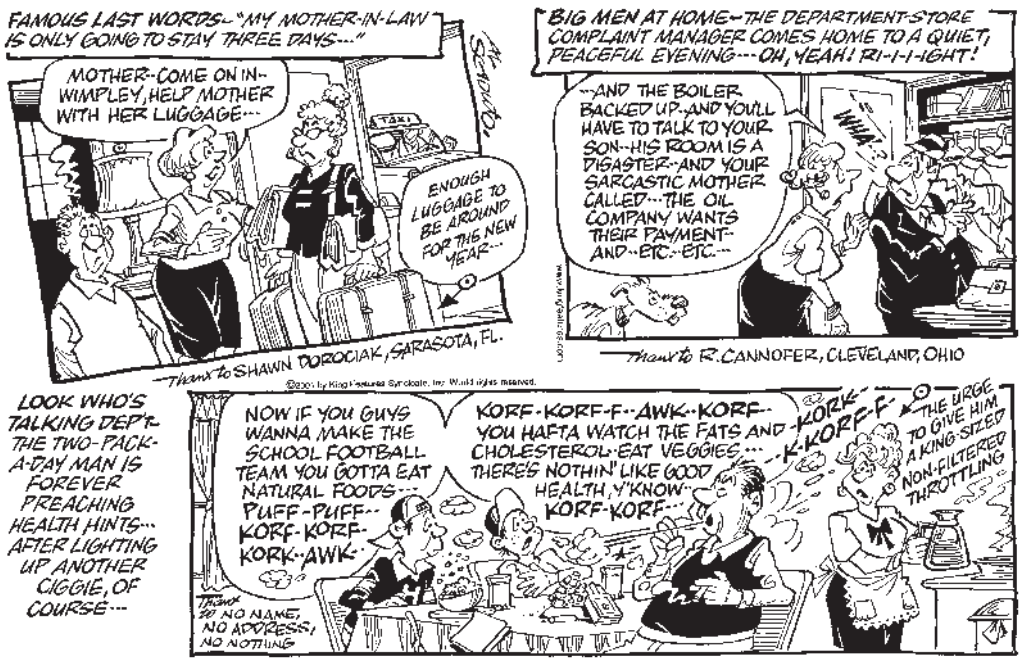
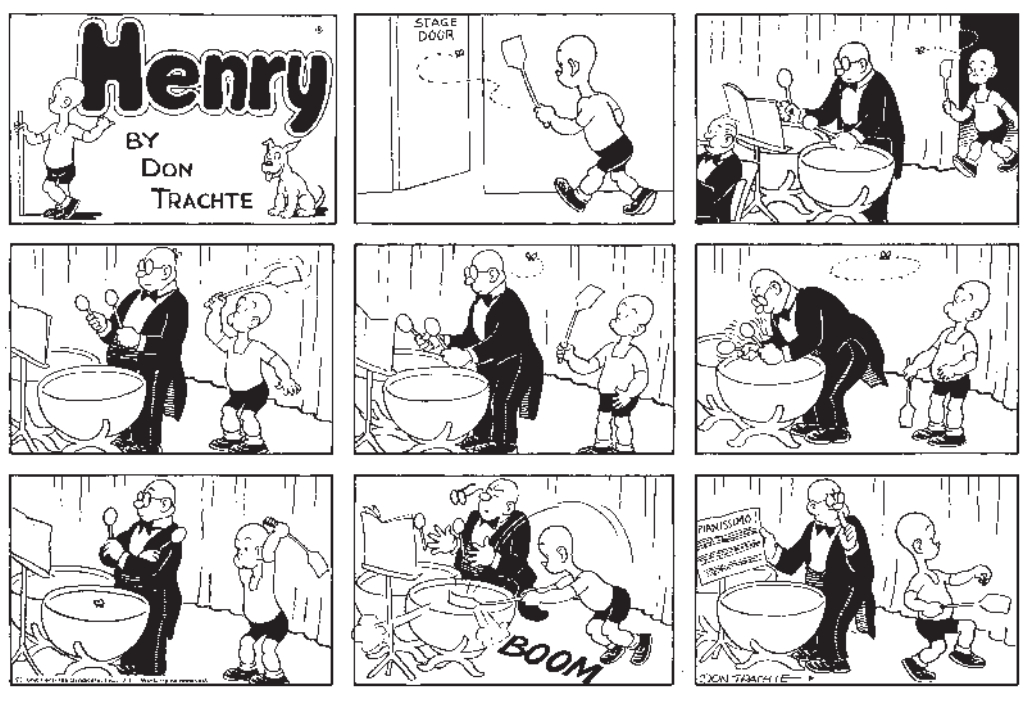
POPEYE
HY EISMAN
YA WANT ME TA MEETCHA WHERE?
I DON'T UNNERSTAN... ...Y'LL BE WEARIN' WOT?
HAW! YA GOTTA BE KIDDIN'!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YA TALKED ME INTA THIS!
THIS HAS GOT TA BE TH' WACKIEST IDEAR YA EVER THOUGHT OF!
TH'MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, TH'MORE I'M SURE...
...THIS AIN'T GONNA WORK, WIMPY!
IT WILL... IF YOU REMEMBER TO CALL ME MOM!
MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL
MOMS EAT FREE
HY EISMAN

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


FAMOUS LAST WORDS--"MY MOTHER-IN-LAW IS ONLY GOING TO STAY THREE DAYS..."
MOTHER--COME ON IN--WIMPLEY, HELP MOTHER WITH HER LUGGAGE...
ENOUGH LUGGAGE TO BE AROUND FOR THE NEW YEAR...
TAXI
Thanx to SHAWN DOROCIAK, SARASOTA, FL.
BIG MEN AT HOME--THE DEPARTMENT-STORE COMPLAINT MANAGER COMES HOME TO A QUIET, PEACEFUL EVENING--OH, YEAH! RI-I-I-IGHT!
--AND THE BOILER BACKED UP--AND YOU'LL HAVE TO TALK TO YOUR SON--HIS ROOM IS A DISASTER--AND YOUR SARCASTIC MOTHER CALLED--THE OIL COMPANY WANTS THEIR PAYMENT--AND--ETC.--ETC.--
WHA?
Thanx to R. CANNOFER, CLEVELAND, OHIO
LOOK WHO'S TALKING DEPT.--THE TWO-PACK-A-DAY MAN IS FOREVER PREACHING HEALTH HINTS... AFTER LIGHTING UP ANOTHER CIGGIE, OF COURSE--
NOW IF YOU GUYS WANNA MAKE THE SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM YOU GOTTA EAT NATURAL FOODS... PUFF-PUFF-- KORF-KORF-F-- KORK--AWK--
KORF-KORF-F--AWK--KORF-- YOU HAFTA WATCH THE FATS AND CHOLESTEROL--EAT VEGGIES... THERE'S NOTHIN' LIKE GOOD HEALTH, Y'KNOW... KORF-KORF...
KORK--K-KORF-F
THE URGE TO GIVE HIM A KING-SIZED NON-FILTERED THROTTLING
Thanx to NO NAME, NO ADDRESS, NO NOTTING

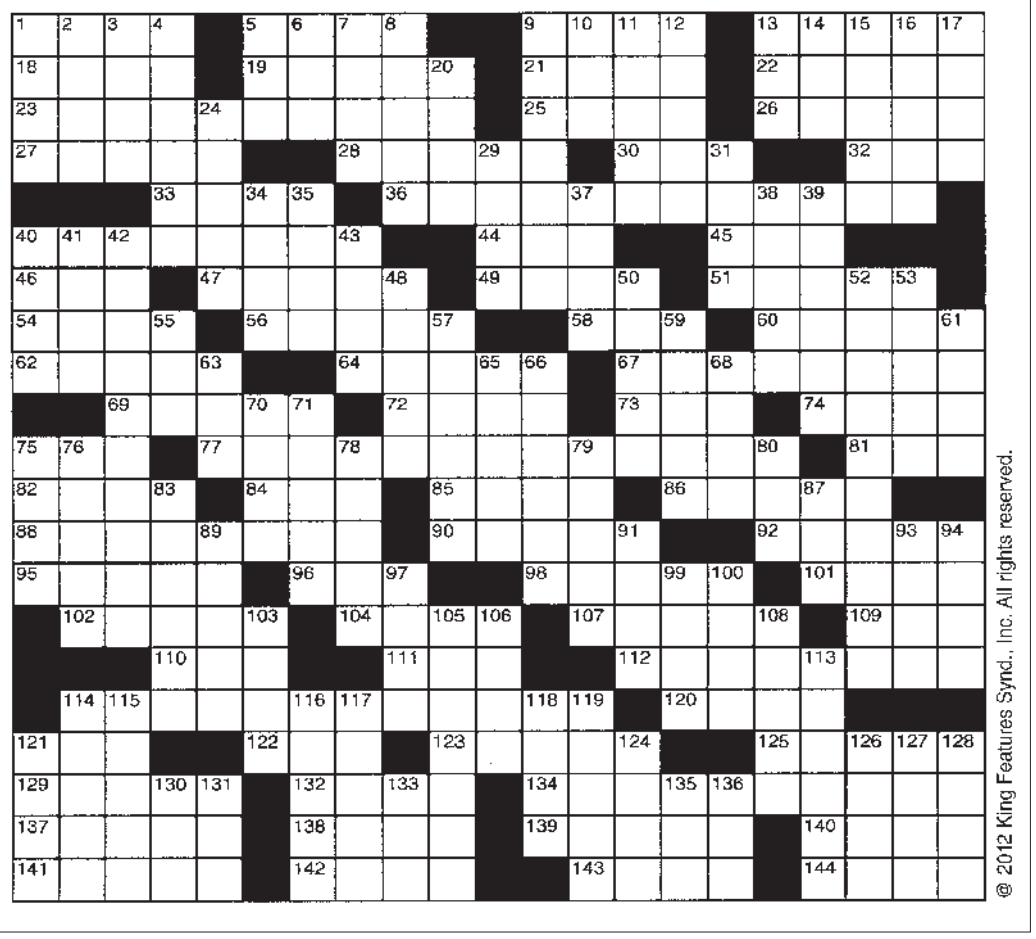


Super Crossword

ONCE IS ENOUGH

ACROSS
1 Not quite closed
5 "Song of the South" title
9 Perched on
13 Tom of "Baretta"
18 — Linda, CA
19 Snorkel and straw
21 Capital of American Samoa?
22 — Lama
23 "The Flintstones" kid?
25 Word on a door
26 Dumbstruck
27 Hacienda material
28 New Archangel, now
30 Devour
32 Summer shade
33 "The — Hurrah" ('58 film)
36 Golfing legend?
40 Crestfallen
44 Volleyball divider
45 Bar supply
46 — Jima
47 Bittern kin
49 Limber with language
51 Dislodge
54 Enormous
56 Mideastern pockets
58 Sea plea
60 Cultural character
62 Composer Bruckner
64 Lloyd Webber musical
67 Leslie Charteris creation
69 Overflowing
72 — impasse
73 Toody or Muldoon
74 Eye problem
75 NYC division
77 Robert Conrad series?
81 Flat hat
82 Broccoli —
84 Nutritional abbr.
85 Tabriz currency
86 Sordid
88 South American capital
90 Subway feature
92 22 Across' home
95 Proclamations
96 "Platoon" setting
98 — -garde
101 Stromboli spew
102 Gown part
104 Temporary calm
107 Girl George?
109 Tuck's mate
110 Dovecote sound
111 "— Rita" ('42 film)
112 Contend
114 Eddie Cantor song?
120 Pay to play
121 TV's "People — Funny"
122 Pair
123 Harden
125 Brando's birthplace
129 "Gladiator" extra
132 Southern st.
134 NY correctional facility?
137 "The Jungle Book" character
138 Martin Balsam film?
139 Passover meal
140 Pkg. abbr.
141 Stephen Vincent —
142 Cruise
143 Major- —
144 Kansas city

DOWN
1 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
2 "The Grapes of Wrath" surname
3 Snowballs, sometimes
4 Wander
5 A/C measure
6 Massage
7 Peters out
8 Antique
9 Garments
10 Homeric character
11 Looked like Lothario?
12 — bear
13 Author LeShan
14 Greyhound's greeting
15 Make merry
16 South American capital
17 Jennifer of "Star Trek: Voyager"
20 Son of Adam
24 Attain
29 Sergeant Preston's dog
31 Buster Brown's dog
34 Tread
35 Actress Hatcher
37 Singer Redding
38 Donates
39 Legendary Colt Johnny
40 Callas or Caballe
41 Actor McGregor
42 Olympic skater?
43 Act like grandma
48 Maritime
50 Mess (up)
52 Dick Van Dyke film?
53 Mrs. Zhivago
55 Haul a heap
57 Lucknow lutes
59 Sole mates?
61 Petunia part
63 Apprehend
65 Implied
66 Turkish city
68 Duel tool
70 Darjeeling dress
71 Wore
75 Pitt of "The Mexican"
76 Desert refuge
78 Trite
79 "Gladiator" extra
80 Boone or Benatar
83 Lure
87 Part of MP
89 Chocolate substitute
91 Damon and Pythias
93 Wicked
94 Use the VCR
97 Darkness
99 Talbot or Naldi
100 Ripped
103 Spilled the beans
105 Progressive
106 Meat cut
108 Teach on the side
113 Sign of spring
114 Shattered
115 Neighbor of Oman
116 Bee and Em
117 Apres-ski quaff
118 Entertainer Tamblyn
119 Like a raisin
121 Spirited stoed
124 Word form for "within"
126 About
127 Salute the moon?
128 Cultural grp.
130 Pub order
131 Basketball's Holman
133 "Exodus" protagonist
135 Tiffany treasure
136 Paid player



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. POLITICS: How long did Margaret Thatcher serve as prime minister of Great Britain?
2. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "ornitho" mean?
3. HISTORY: How did the Native American leader Crazy Horse die?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the highest waterfall in the world?
6. LEGEND: What was the name of King Arthur's legendary sword?
7. ART: Who painted "Christina's World"?
8. ENTERTAINERS: How many times were actors Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor married?
9. LITERATURE: Which one of Charles Dickens' novels was unfinished at his death?
10. MATH: What does the symbol "r" stand for in geometry?

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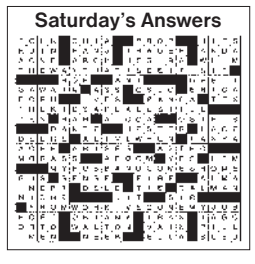
Answers
1. 12 years
2. Bird
3. Stabbed with a bayonet while trying to escape custody
4. Angel Falls (Venezuela) is 3,212 feet high.
6. Excalibur
7. Andrew Wyeth
8. Twice
9. "The Mystery of Edwin Drood"
10. Radius

Saturday's Answers



The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
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• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, INC., Plaintiff, vs. JOSEPH M. MANGLONA and BLANCA P. MANGLONA Defendants.

Civil Action No. 99-0691

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by this Court on January 23, 2012, in which the undersigned was Ordered to levy, execute and sell, in accordance with law, a parcel of real property, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, Defendants' interest in and to the following real property situated in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below.

Lot No. 008 T 25, containing an area of 900 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat no. 008 T 01, dated January 07, 1988 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendants), will be held on **Friday, May 25, 2012, at 11:00 a.m.,** at the Tinian Superior Court entrance, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 3rd day of May, 2012.

/s/ S. Joshua Berger, Auctioneer
Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger
Tel. No.: (670)235-8060
e-mail : joshuaberger711@hotmail.com

Century Tours is looking for qualified U.S. workers to fill the following positions.

Sales Supervisor (1)

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Sales or Marketing with at least 2 years related experience in the tour and travel industry. Candidate must have strong oral and written communication skills in English and Chinese languages. Must be proficient in the use of MS Word, Excel and Power point. Must be willing to work on holidays, nights and weekends.

Accounting Clerk (1)

Qualifications: Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 2 years work experience in cash management within a busy working environment. Must be proficient in the use of MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure, meet tight deadlines and can work flexible hours.

Operations Clerk (2)

Qualifications: High school graduate or GED with at least 1 year of work experience in the hotel and tour industry. Must be able to be prepared to handle multiple assignments at the same time. Must have strong oral and written communication skills in the English and Chinese language. Must be proficient in typing, math, grammar and computers. Successful candidate must be able to handle room bookings and or activity setups as it relates to tourist needs.

Application forms can be picked up at the Human Resource office of Century Tours located at the Saipan Grand Hotel in Beach Road, Susupe.

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Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

L&T Group of Companies is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the following position:

GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKER

High school diploma or equivalent with experience in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained at and submitted to L & T Group of Companies office at the 2nd floor of JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00PM, Wednesday, May 16, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

L & T Group of Companies is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

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The flagrance of war
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
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Sixers, Celtics clinch series victories in six

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia's Andre Iguodala made the go-ahead free throws with 2.2 seconds remaining to give the 76ers a 79-78 win over the top-seeded Chicago Bulls on Thursday, winning the series 4-2 and advancing to the NBA Eastern Conference semifinals.

Omar Asik missed two free throws for the Bulls with 7 seconds left that would have sealed the win. Iguodala grabbed the second miss, sprinted the length of the court, and was fouled by Asik on the driving layup. He made both to send the crowd into a frenzy, then leapt onto the scorers table as the team anthem blared out.

The Sixers are just the fifth No. 8 seed in NBA history to win a first-round series against a No. 1 seed.

In his second season, coach Doug Collins had already led the Sixers to their first winning season in seven years. Now, it's on to the second round for the first time since 2003 and the Allen Iverson era. They will play Boston.

Iguodala scored 20 points, and Jrue Holiday and Lou Williams each scored 14 for the Sixers, who won even though the Bulls crushed them 56-33 on the boards.

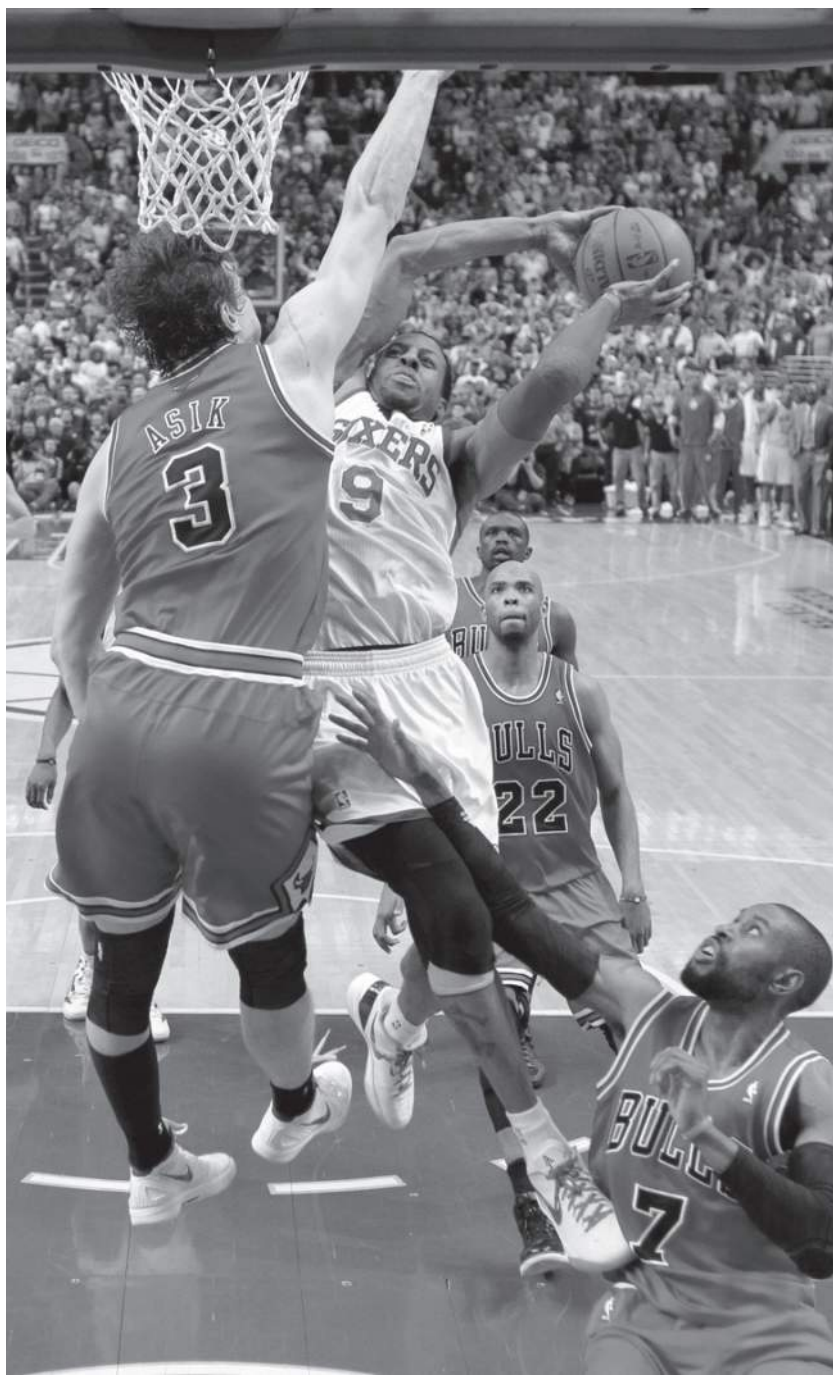
Luol Deng had 19 points and 17 rebounds for the Bulls. Richard Hamilton scored 19 points and Carlos Boozer grabbed 13 rebounds.

Chicago could not overcome the absence of star guard Derrick Rose, who tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee late in the opening game of the series. Center Joakim Noah was on the bench Thursday but failed to play in his third straight game with a sprained left ankle.

Nerves were frayed in the frantic closing stages. Williams buried a 3-pointer to put Philadelphia ahead 73-72 lead with 4 minutes left.

The Sixers were then whistled for goaltending and Taj Gibson made two free throws to put the Bulls up 76-73.

Philadelphia's Spencer Hawes tried to draw a foul but settled for a basket underneath to shrink the deficit to one. Asik scored to push the Bulls' lead back to 78-75 with 25.8 seconds left, but that was again sliced to one as Philadelphia's Thaddeus Young made a basket, and then came Iguodala's free throws.



AP

Philadelphia 76ers' Andre Iguodala (9) is fouled by Chicago Bulls' Omer Asik (3) the final seconds of Game 6 in an NBA basketball first-round playoff series on Thursday, May 10, 2012, in Philadelphia.

Celtics 83, Hawks 80

In Boston, Kevin Garnett hitting a jumper to give Boston the lead with 31 seconds left, and the Celtics held on to beat Atlanta, clinching a 4-2 series victory and a berth in the Eastern Conference semifinals for the fifth straight year.

Garnett had a season-high 28 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for Boston, which has won at least one playoff series every year since the new Big 3 was assembled. Paul Pierce had 18 points despite playing with a sprained medial collateral ligament in his left knee, and Rajon Rondo had 14 points and eight assists.

Josh Smith had 19 points and nine rebounds for Atlanta, which failed to advance in the playoffs for the first time in four years. Joe Johnson had 17 points, Marvin Williams added 16 and eight rebounds and Al Horford had 15 points and nine rebounds.

The Celtics will open the second round against Philadelphia in Boston on Saturday. The crowd cheered near the end of the third quarter when the final play of the Sixers-Bulls game was shown on the scoreboard. That result meant the Celtics will have home-court advantage against eighth-seeded Philadelphia rather than facing the Bulls.

The Hawks went 5 minutes without scoring early in the fourth quarter as the Celtics turned a two-point game into a 74-65 lead. But Atlanta scored 10 of the next 12 points, with Horford scoring the last three baskets, making it a one-point game with 3:52 left.

Smith dunked to give Atlanta its first lead of the second half, 77-76. Horford drove to the basket to give the Hawks a three-point lead.

Atlanta still led 79-78 when Garnett made a turnaround jumper in the lane to put Boston ahead by one. Smith had a chance to restore the visitors' lead but missed a long rainbow jumper.

Ray Allen got a rebound with 10 seconds left, but made only one of two free throws, pushing the Celtic' lead to 81-79.

With 10 seconds left, Atlanta's Johnson drove to the basket but Pierce blocked his shot and Garnett tipped it out of bounds with 3.1 seconds left.

The Hawks got the ball in to Horford in the lane but as he went up for the dunk Marquis Daniels tackled him to prevent a score.

Horford missed the first of two resulting foul shots with 2.3 seconds left. After he made the second to cut the deficit to 81-80, the Celtics got the ball to Pierce, who was fouled and made both free throws to seal it.

Nuggets 113, Lakers 96

In Denver, Ty Lawson scored 32 points, Corey Brewer added 18 and Denver forced a Game 7 in their first-round playoff series with a dominating 113-96 win over Los Angeles on Thursday.

The free-wheeling Nuggets are one win from running the lumbering Lakers right out of the playoffs. Game 7 in the Western Conference series is Saturday in L.A..

It will be the Nuggets' first all-or-nothing playoff game since losing to Utah in Game 7 of the 1994 conference semifinals.

Kobe Bryant scored 31 points in 3 1/2 quarters despite a stomach upset that prevented him from attending the Lakers' morning shootaround and forced him to take intravenous fluids all day. He took a seat for good with Los Angeles down 101-73 with 7:52 remaining.

The younger but deeper Nuggets have won three of four since dropping the first two games in Los Angeles, and they did it by once again outrunning and outgunning their star-studded counterparts who prefer a half-court game and not the frenetic pace and pickup-game style employed by the Nuggets.

Lawson's 32 points were a career-playoff high, besting his old mark of 27 set last year.

Andrew Bynum pulled down 16 rebounds but made just 4 of 11 shots for 11 points, for the Lakers and Pau Gasol was just 1 of 10 from the field, finishing with three points and three rebounds.

The Nuggets got another great game from rookie Kenneth Faried, who provided even more energy with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Danilo Gallinari and Andre Miller both had 12 points for Denver, which led 90-68 heading into the fourth quarter.

Brewer iced this one by scoring 11 straight points for Denver to start the fourth quarter, an array of dunks and jumpers that gave the Nuggets their biggest lead at 101-73 and forced the Lakers to throw in the towel and try to rest up Bryant, Bynum and Gasol for Game 7.

Poulter, Laird tied at Players Championship

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Ian Poulter is enjoying his new digs—his newly built home and his spot atop the leaderboard Thursday in The Players Championship.

Poulter, finally finished with a house at Lake Nona that took nearly three years to build, ran off four birdies around the turn and birdied all the par 5s at TPC Sawgrass for a 7-under 65 and a share of the lead with Martin Laird.

Laird, playing in tougher conditions in the afternoon, was the only player without a bogey in the opening round. He made birdie on his final hole to catch Poulter, although his focus was more on his scorecard than the leaderboard.

"I knew I hadn't made a 5 all day, and that was kind of a little goal I had," said Laird, who finished on the par-5 ninth. "Nothing to do with getting to 7 under. It was, `I don't want to make a 5 all day.'"

Poulter finally had his mind at ease after getting moved into his new home, which left him little time to practice. If nothing else, it was good to think only about golf.

"It's no surprise to me to be fresh in the mind this week, to know that I'm finally in the house and I'm relaxed and the family is happy, and all of the hassle and stress is over and I can just go out and play golf," he said. "And I have felt relaxed this week."

That's not easy to do at Sawgrass—Tiger Woods can certainly attest to that—yet it helped Poulter that he had nine straight one-putt greens, a streak that ended with a long two-putt for par on the 18th.

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

They were a shot ahead of Blake Adams, with Ben Crane and Kevin Na another shot behind. The 11 players at 68 included Adam Scott, Matt Kuchar, Ben Curtis and FedEx champion Bill Haas. There were 27 players who shot in the 60s, and more than half the field broke par.

Woods was not among them. Not even close.

He opened with a bogey and was never under par in a round of 74. Coming off a rare missed cut at Quail Hollow, Woods was in jeopardy of missing consecutive cuts for the first time in his career, and leaving before The Players Championship was over for the third straight year.

"I just didn't score," Woods said. "It was frustrating in the sense that my good shots ended up in bad spots, and obviously, my bad shots ended up in worse spots."

The conditions were ideal for scoring for those hitting it where they were aiming, and making their share of putts.

Adams ran off five straight birdies early in his round and kept the mistakes to a minimum. Na shot 30 on the back nine.

Sawgrass, though, punishes even the slightest mistakes.

Rory McIlroy, the world No. 1, was 2 under for his round until coming up just short of the island-green 17th and making double bogey. He wound up with a 72, while Phil Mickelson had a 71 in his first round after being inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. Lee Westwood had a 71, irritated only because of seven birdies on his card.

Poulter's new home looks more like a hotel, and it took about as long to build. It became such a headache for him that when asked to go over the problems he had with contractors, Poulter looked at his watch and said, "How long you got?"

"I could write a book," he said.

With that out of the way, his mind was free for golf, on a course that seems to suit him well. He was runner-up three years ago, four shots behind Henrik Stenson. But Poulter found the right recipe on a sunny, warm day at Sawgrass. His birdie putts on the par 5s were all within about 5 feet. When he started missing greens on the back nine, he chipped close for par.

He hit 9-iron to a front pin on the island-green 17th to about 10 feet for birdie, then made it through the 18th without drama.

"I played really solid today and holed the right putts at the right times," Poulter said. "I feel like I'm back to normal, and I feel like I'm out there playing the golf I feel I should be playing."

Adams is playing this event for only the second time—he missed the cut last year with rounds of 72-76—and hasn't been getting much out of his game this year. He told his caddie and coach that it was time to stop trying to hit the perfect shots and enjoy himself, and a 66 left him thrilled.

"I was just trying to make every putt," he said of his run of birdies.

Sawgrass took its share of victims, as usual.

The star group of the morning was Woods, Rickie Fowler and Hunter Mahan, the only player with two wins this year. None of them were particularly impressive. Fowler, the winner Sunday at Quail Hollow, failed to save par when missing greens that killed his momentum and shot 72, while Mahan hit two shots into the water on his way to a 74.

Hamilton homers again for Rangers

BALTIMORE (AP)—Texas' Josh Hamilton hit his major league-leading 15th homer of the season as the Rangers won the night game against the Baltimore Orioles 7-3 on Thursday to split their doubleheader.

Hamilton entered the doubleheader coming off a four-homer game Tuesday and had five home runs in his previous six at-bats. After going 1 for 4 with a single and two strikeouts in the first game, he resumed his assault on Baltimore pitching by hitting a two-run shot in the first inning off former Rangers pitcher Tommy Hunter (2-2).

Hamilton increased his major league-leading RBI total to 38.

Texas starter Derek Holland (3-2) did not allow an earned run in six innings.

In the opener, the Orioles set an American League record by hitting home runs in their first three at-bats and launched five in all to set up a 6-5 win.

All the homers came off Texas pitcher Colby Lewis (3-2), who struck out a career-high 12. That made him the first pitcher since 1918 to give up five home runs and have at least 10 strikeouts in the same game.

Orioles starter Wei-Yin Chen (3-0) gave up two runs in 7 2-3 innings. David Murphy connected for a three-run homer in the ninth to cut the deficit to one run but Jim Johnson got three outs for the save.

Yankees 5, Rays 3

In New York, C.C. Sabathia outpitched David Price for the first time in six career matchups between the All-Star pitchers, guiding New York to victory over Tampa Bay.

Sabathia (5-0) struck out 10 including B.J. Upton with two runners on base to end the seventh inning. The burly pitcher allowed two unearned runs in eight innings.

Robinson Cano and Curtis Granderson homered for the Yankees. It was the first time in Price's career that he had given up homers to two left-handed hitters in the same game.

Price (5-1) gave up 11 hits, many of them well tagged.

Indians 8, Red Sox 3

In Boston, embattled starter Josh Beckett did nothing to help restore his reputation, getting booed off the field at Fenway Park in the third inning of Boston's loss to Cleveland.

Jack Hannahan hit a two-run homer and Jason Kipnis had a solo shot off Beckett, who was already in the bad books with Red Sox fans for playing golf last week a day after he was scratched from his scheduled start with a sore muscle in his back.

His return to the rotation couldn't have gone much worse. Beckett (2-4) gave up seven runs and walked two in 2 1-3 innings as Cleveland teed off en route to a 7-1 lead.

Indians starter Derek Lowe (5-1) pitched six effective innings against his former team, allowing two runs. The last-placed Red Sox have lost 11 of their past 12 home games.

Tigers 10, Athletics 6

In Oakland, Miguel Cabrera broke out of a slump with two RBI hits in Detroit's eight-run third inning against Oakland.

Cabrera, who came into the game hitless in his previous 14 at-bats, finished with four hits, including an RBI double and a run-scoring single in the third. He also had an RBI single in the fifth.

Alex Avila added a two-run double in the third as the Tigers knocked out Bartolo Colon (3-3) early. Colon allowed eight runs in 2 1-3 innings, dropping to 0-7 in his last 12 starts against Detroit with a 7.67 ERA.

Detroit's Max Scherzer (2-3) struck out nine in 6 1-3 innings to end a three-start winless streak.

Blue Jays 6, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Henderson Alvarez pitched seven strong innings to win his third straight start in Toronto's victory over Minnesota.

Alvarez (3-2) stretched his scoreless streak to 17 innings before a throwing error allowed the Twins to score in the third. He also gave up a homer in the sixth.

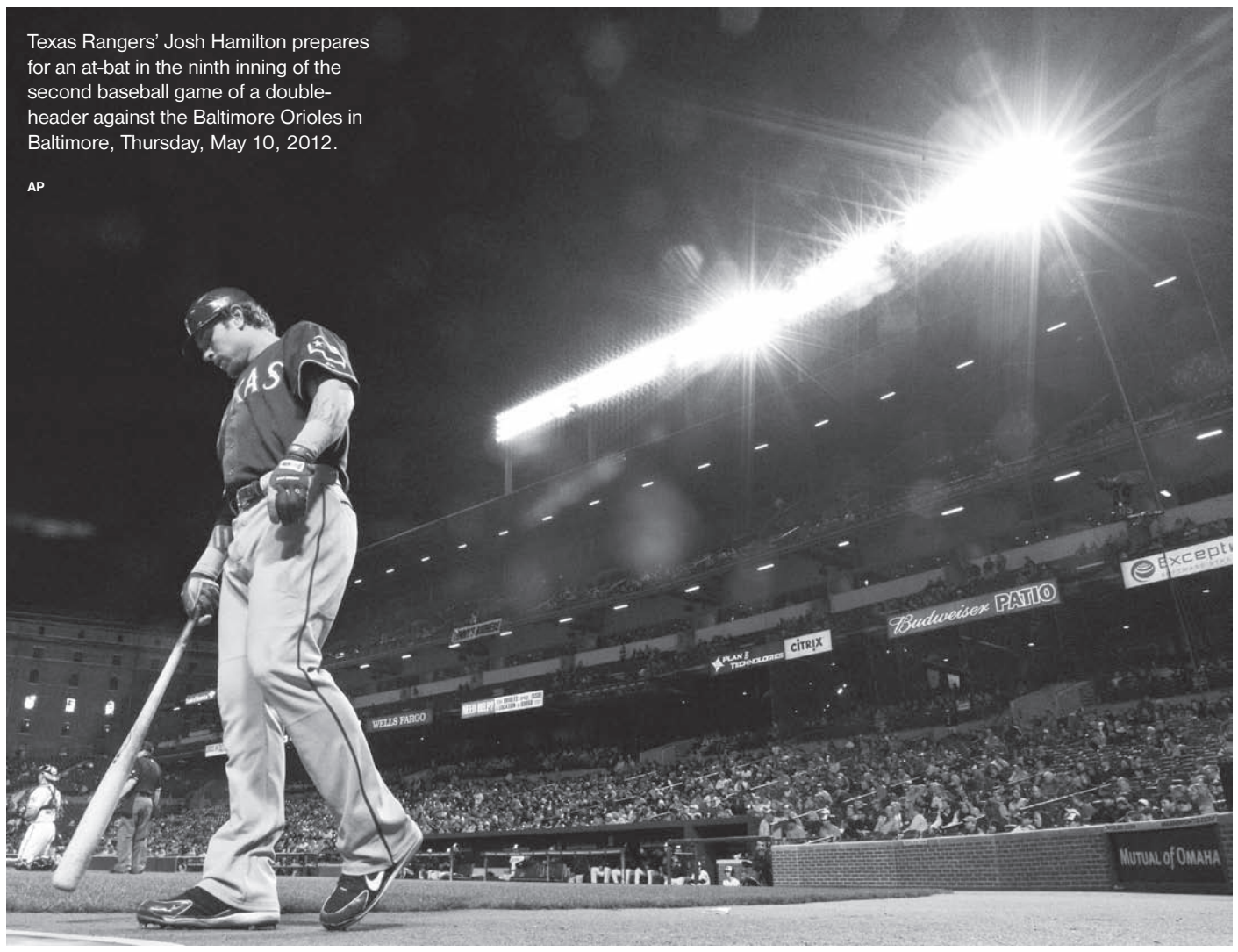
Yunel Escobar scored three times and hit four singles for the Blue Jays against Jason Marquis (2-2). The Twins are a major league-worst 8-23.

Nationals 4, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Washington pitcher Stephen Strasburg struck out a season-high 13 batters to lead the Nationals to a win over the Pittsburgh Pirates, ending a three-game losing skid.

Roger Bernadina and Adam LaRoche both homered in the sixth off Pittsburgh's Kevin Correia (1-3) to erase a two-run deficit.

Strasburg improved to 3-0 while trimming his ERA to 1.64 by overpowering the punchless Pirates. He gave up one earned runs in six innings.



Texas Rangers' Josh Hamilton prepares for an at-bat in the ninth inning of the second baseball game of a double-header against the Baltimore Orioles in Baltimore, Thursday, May 10, 2012.

AP

Cashman not ideal gov't witness in Clemens case

WASHINGTON (AP)—No one worked harder than Roger Clemens. He would will himself to win. The New York Yankees traded for him after winning the World Series because they didn't want complacency to set in.

Those were all characterizations made Thursday by Yankees general manager Brian Cashman, ostensibly a government witness in Clemens' perjury trial. But like former Clemens teammate Andy Pettitte a week before, he sometimes sounded more like a defense witness.

The more he praised Clemens, the more he complicated the government's attempt to win a conviction. The idea that Clemens worked harder than anyone, in particular, is a theme the defense has used to explain how the 11-time All Star pitched successfully into his 40s.

"He brought people together," Cashman said on the witness stand, about 20 feet from Clemens. "He was a great leader."

And a good guy, to boot.

"He treated the 25th man as well as the second-best player on the team," Cashman gushed.

Clemens is accused of lying to Congress in 2008 when he denied using steroids or human growth hormone. The key government witness, former Clemens strength coach Brian McNamee, said he injected the seven-time Cy Young Award winner with both drugs during the 1998, 2000 and 2001 major league seasons .

The government called Cashman as a witness to try to establish Clemens' dependence on McNamee. Prosecutors focused on a 1999 playoff loss to the Boston Red Sox after which, Cashman testified, the injured Clemens asked that the Yankees hire McNamee. The pitcher and strength coach had worked together with the Toronto Blue Jays.

Cashman said he went to the visitor's clubhouse at Fenway Park and found Clemens with ice on his leg and frustration on his face.

"He talked about how he clicked with Brian McNamee," Cashman said. "He knew his body. Brian knew how to train him, push the right buttons on him."

McNamee was hired by the Yankees—a decision made by then-owner George Steinbrenner—the following year at a salary of $30,000. The title was assistant strength and conditioning coach, but as Cashman put it: "His duties were to train Roger Clemens."

Guided by cross-examination from Clemens lawyer Rusty Hardin, Cashman even sought to turn Clemens' low-point season of 1999 into a positive. The prosecutors have suggested that Clemens' difficulties during his first season with the Yankees grew out of his withdrawal from McNamee's drug treatments.

That year, the pitcher had a mediocre 4.60 ERA, but Hardin asked if that was really a bad year, or just a subpar year by Clemens' high standards.

"Less hits than innings pitched," Cashman mused aloud as he read the stats that had been entered into evidence.

"A hundred and sixty-three strikeouts," Hardin said.

"Yeah, I'd take that," the GM of the pitching-starved Yankees quipped.

"You'd hire a pitcher for that, wouldn't you?" Hardin said.

"I've been trying," Cashman said, prompting a rare smile from Clemens.

Cashman also related how McNamee's tenure with the Yankees went sour. McNamee lured players away from the head strength and conditioning coach, Cashman said, and instructed pitchers about their throwing motions, a job meant for the pitching coach.

Then there were misadventures in Florida and Seattle in 2001. The jury heard about them mostly in general terms as the judge has excluded details considered irrelevant to this case, but it was enough to cast aspersions. By the end of 2001, Cashman decided he'd had enough. McNamee's contract was not renewed.

McNamee is expected to take the stand when testimony resumes on Monday, the start of the fifth week of the trial.

NFL looking at possible replacement refs

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—The NFL is looking for potential replacement officials while it negotiates with the officials' association on a new contract.

The previous contract expired after last season and another negotiating session is expected later this month, NFL Referees Association executive director Tim Millis says.

"I am surprised by the timing," Millis said Thursday of the league memo to its officiating scouting department to begin identifying possible replacements. "In 2001, they did something like this, but they didn't in 2006."

Millis said reports that the sides had reached an impasse were exaggerated.

"There's not any one hang-up," Millis said. "It's all part of the process. We have not talked to anyone about this (letter). It's not a product of any CBA negotiations.

"We will negotiate in May and June and July to reach an agreement. We want to get it done as soon as we can. There is no impasse at all."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello agreed.

"We expect to reach an agreement, but must have contingency plans in place," Aiello said.

Fox Sports first reported the letter sent by the league to its officiating scouting department.

The NFL's search would target retired college officials and perhaps current ones who would be qualified to work professional games. In 2001, the league used replacement officials for one preseason game, then the first weekend of the regular season. But after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a new deal soon was reached that carried through 2005. Another contract was agreed on in 2006.

The NFL Referees Association has 121 on-field members and also represents the 17 replay officials and more than 100 retired officials. Millis is a former on-field official and former supervisor of Big 12 officials.

FALCONS

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first stepped to the rubber to close the last out of the second frame.

He left the game with zero outs and a man on third base in the last inning. The Enforcers held an 8-6 edge at that point as Jones allowed one run to the dish off a passed ball earlier in the frame.

Jones' replacement Sablan found a couple of quick outs but paid for them with runs off a wild pitch and an error as the Falcons would just not go away. Now locked up at 8-apiece, the Falcons went on to load the bases for a clutch three-RBI double by Kintaro.

An extra run trotted home from an RBI walk and the Falcons' Naog held the Enforcers to just two runs in the final stand.

Falcons 26, Lions 8

Believe it or not, the Falcons trailed, 1-2, after the first inning, but they quickly turned things around in the second frame with eight runs acquired through help from five walks and a bean ball that went with a pair of doubles by Ian Norita and Juan Quitugua (RBI). Six runs came home off wild pitches in the inning.

The Lions responded with three runs in the top of the third, but the Falcons remained on fire and screeched ahead, 21-5, in the bottom frame.

They loaded up the base path right away and kept things rolling with a two-RBI base rip by James Kintaro and a three-run inside-the-park home run by Derek Naog.

With two outs still to burn, the Falcons were not nearly finished and immediately boarded three more men for an additional two-RBI smash by Barry Sunumai followed by an RBI single by Kintaro and a two-RBI triple by Chris Sablan during the birds' second time through the lineup.

The Lions were able to produce three runs in the fourth from Perry Celis and Juden Joyner, but the pride simply fell too far behind.

The Falcons stood up the Lions with ducks on the pond after the early damage and obliged with another handful of runs in the bottom of the fourth before packing up early.

Some more early walks and errors set the table for three payoff hits for the Falcons including an RBI single for Sablan, while the other runs came in off wild pitches.

The Lions threw everything they could at the flock, however all five of their pitchers experienced some control issues.

As a group, the Falcons drew 15 free passes to match their total hit production.

Ol'Aces 6, Jets 5

The Jets worked out an early 3-0 edge in the first three innings from an RBI single by Ben Maratita in the opening frame and from a passed ball and an error in the third.

Jets' Franco Nakamura was plunked with two outs and moved to second after K.J. Deleon Guerrero looked at ball four. Nakamura stole third and scored off a pitch in the dirt, while a bobbled ball up at shortstop later enabled Deleon Guerrero to break for the plate.

The Ol'Aces woke up in the fourth inning and salvaged a pair of runs from a two-RBI base knock by Denny Jepen that scored Kenji Yamagata and Terson Eina.

The Jets escaped with the bases loaded, but could not capitalize off the stand in the bottom frame and the Ol'Aces' top of the order moved them in front, 5-3, in the fifth inning off four hits; Verlance Secharmidal led off with a hit and scored off a wild pitch, Jessie Brel swung his way on and later stole home, while Mike Muna and Eina followed with RBI singles.

Jets' Nakamura hammered a leadoff inside-the-park homer in the bottom half in effort to ignite a rally, but his teammates went 1-2-3 after his feat thanks to Ol'Aces' reliever Brel.

The Ol'Aces drew a blank in the top portion of the sixth and the Jets briefly tied the match at 5-all in the bottom half from Peterson Rengiil, who led off the inning with a triple and scored off a passed ball.

In the end, however, Ol'Aces' Yamagata crushed a lead-off inside-the-park blast for the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and his closer Eina willed his way to get the save in the final stand.

May roll-offs today and tomorrow

Saipan Bowling Association will hold its Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament for May today and tomorrow at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Day 1 of the May roll-off tomorrow will start at 6pm, while the Sunday competition will begin earlier at 3:30pm.

As usual, participants in the King and Queen roll-offs can bowl on both days, but only the higher score will be counted to determine the winners of the May titles.

Only the first 60 bowlers to register will compete in men's division and prizes will depend on the number of entries. The women's division will have separate prizes only if at least 10 keglers join the competition.

Youth bowlers (12-18 years old) will bowl only on Day 1 for a chance to win the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes.

Entry fee is only $15 for the adults roll-offs and $10 for the youth. All participants must also pay the $15 SBA annual fee.

For more information, contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. ***(SBA)***

MAN

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been aware of the newly revised game schedule.

Lastly, Talu Fahn (2-6) toppled Managaha (0-8), 17-11, last April 30 and women's Rookies led 670 Babes, 1-0, after the first inning before heavy rain called for a suspension of the match; the men's late feature was also rained out.

MONDAY

Natibu 16, Man Amigos 15

Man Amigos went for the first round knockout and posted up 10 runs in the opening frame off 11 hits. John Reyes left the yard for two runs, Peter Saban bagged an RBI single, Julian Camacho ripped a two-RBI double, J.J. Laniyo bashed a three-run bomb, and two other runs came home off errors.

Both teams traded a run in the second, after which a sacrifice fly by Natibu's Navan was answered with a solo shot by Reyes in the top of the fourth.

Natibu's Jerome Delos Santos responded with a three-run blast in the bottom frame in an effort to breathe new life into his men heading into crunch time.

Natibu pulled within a handful, 7-12, in the fifth inning with a two-run home run by Bruce Norita, and then jumped in the driver's seat, 14-12, in the sixth with seven runs off eight hits. Delos Santos crushed an RBI single, Jess Taitano hammered a two-RBI double for the tie, and Oscar Sablan pushed them ahead with a two-run launch.

Man Amigos almost whipped up a last-second solution with a three-run home run by Joey Dela Cruz, but it was not enough.

Natibu's Victor Salas led off the final stand with a solo shot and Aaron Benavente followed him with a base hit. Then after a costly error, Ned Nortia bashed a walk-off single for the win.

Sakudi 14, Rookies 3

Sakudi scored on a three-run homer in the first inning, but the Rookies fired back with three runs in the bottom frame off an error, an RBI base rip by Nadine Camacho, and a sacrifice fly by Maribel Igitol.

Sakudi pressed on however and reassumed control, 7-3, in the second inning off early errors and five hits. Juljen Ngeskebei bashed a home run and Liz Lebria a triple in the ruckus.

The Rookies' offense stalled after the promising start and was contained to just three hits in the remainder of the contest. Sakudi also took advantage of some errors out in the field as they extended their margin through the late innings.

Ur Balls 25, G-Ballers 12

Ur Balls took a 7-4 lead in the first inning off an RBI single by Vince Sablan Jr. and a three-run blast from Giovanni Ayuyu.

They then added six more runs in the second frame off six hits. Oliver Secharmidal busted an RBI double, Auide Maratita and J.P. Lizama bagged RBI singles, and Steve Igisair ripped a two-RBI base smash.

Ur Balls trudged ahead, 17-4, in the third inning and wiped away three runs by their opponents with another four-run cluster in the bottom of the fourth accrued by a double by Igisair, a base hit by Jun Angui, a sacrifice fly by Marvin Kaipat, and a double by Secharmidal.

G-Ballers' John Kintaro and Jude Dickenson left the yard in a last-ditch rally effort, but Ur Balls never had a doubt.

FRIDAY

Gagu Eyes 12, Natibu 5

Gagu Eyes surged in front, 9-2, right out of the gate off eight hits. Juan Tenorio cranked a two-run shot, Clyde Sablan bagged an RBI single, Swain Cangco jacked a grand slam, and Tyrone Omar drove in Noki Torres.

They came up dry in the second, but pulled off a double play to keep their rivals at bay in the bottom half.

Both teams bit down out on the field, which made runs hard to come by for the rest of the game.

Natibu's Ken Kalen lifted a solo homer in the third inning, but it was later neutralized by an RBI poke from Gagu Eyez's Sablan in the top of the fifth.

Gagu Eyes then contained Natibu to just two runs in the sixth inning, which were soon answered with a two-run homer by Tenorio in the seventh before Gagu Eyes kept a lid on Natibu in the final stand.

670 Babes 18, Check It Out 9

Check It Out started strong, but sputtered out as the game progressed, while the 670 Babes caught a second wind late in the game.

Check It Out led it, 5-2, after the opening frame with five hits, including a triple by Rellani Ogumoro, but the count soon became locked at 8-all in the second inning as the 670 Babes racked up six runs in the top portion off five hits. Daylinne Joseph, Mel Benjamin, and Catalina Dela Cruz bagged RBI singles and Kuki Pangelinan bashed a three-RBI double.

Remarkably, Check It Out was held to just one run after that point.

670 Babes seized the lead, 10-9, after the third inning off errors and it went just got worse for division frontrunners.

670's Remy Mafnas pounded an RBI single after a gifted run via an error came to the plate in the fifth inning and her teammates piled on five more in the sixth frame and never looked back.

Talu Fahn 17, Managaha 11

Talu Fahn gashed Managaha with a 10-run tear in the second inning off 10 hits to swipe the lead, 10-7, and put a choke-hold on Managaha from thereon.

Talu Fahn's Ryan Mizutani drove in Anson Jones and was double to the plate along with Bill Auon by Stanley Aldan. Manny Ada stepped in next and cracked a two-run blast, while the other runs came home off errors, an RBI double by Floyd Dela Cruz, and a pair of RBI singles by Eldred Santos and Eric Cabrera.

Managaha's Rick George pulled his team within a run in the third inning with a two-RBI base rip, and the group went ahead briefly in the fourth, 11-10, thanks to a two-run homer by Joey Sablan, but Talu Fahn regrouped in the fifth frame and took a 13-11 lead off a two-run shot by Jones and a fielder's choice.

Talu Fahn buttoned up on defense and held their opponents scoreless in the clutch, while they worked around four insurance runs in the sixth inning off five hits highlighted by a two-RBI double by Jones.

MPU-2

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sealed the deal.

Other men's results saw Matansa FC beat Sky, 2-1, in intergroup play and Inter FC thrashing Paire FC, 4-0.

U15 GIRLS

Draws were the theme of the most recent games in the 2012 U15 Spring Youth League as Matansa FC and Shirley's FC finished their game with a 1-1 draw, while Tan Holdings FC and Paire FC both went scoreless in their match. Both games were played at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Diana Manacop drew first blood for Matansa FC in the 26th minute, but Jezreelyn Bulaklak tied it up with her own goal in the 34th minute.

Shirley's FC leads the standings with a 5-0-2 win-loss-draw card followed by MPU (3-0-4), Matansa FC (2-2-3), Paire FC (1-4-2), and Tan Holdings FC (1-6-2).

WOMEN'S DIVISION

In the 2012 Women's 11 Aside, Shirley's improved its win-loss-draw mark to 6-0-1 after it bamboozled Tan Holdings FC, 13-0, last May 5 at the Hopwood pitch.

Marielle Gariguez rocketed the ball past Tan Holdings FC goalies a grand total of five times to lead Shirley's to the dominating win.

Also scoring for Shirley's FC were Alexandria Vergara (twice), Marilou Gariguez, Lalaine Pagarao, Mikky Vargas, Mae Ito, and Liezel Tiples. The loss was the sixth in seven games for Tan Holdings, which only other game ended in a draw.

Paire FC, meanwhile, won over Matansa FC, 3-0. Matansa bounced right back with a 2-1 win over Inter FC.

UFO

From Page 28

age group, the UFO president said the show must go on and will when the Docomo Pacific Cup 15-20 division kicks off beginning 8:30am on May 20.

Two games will be on tap and like previous UFO basketball league openings, a Best Muse and Best Uniform Competition will be held.

Masters players will see action starting 2:30pm with a doubleheader for the Budweiser Cup 40-and-over division.

The 15-20 age group will have MDX/Mariana Resort & Spa, SIP/Flor Miranda, Bayani/DYS Jr. National A, Visminda/AON Jr. National B, MIFICPA/Gene's Barber, and Power/Hi Five.

Expected to see action in the 40-and-over age group, meanwhile, are MDX/Armatech, Bayani/Triple J, Samahang Laguna, UPAA, Boholano, Batangas Blades/Fong's Bakery, and Visminda/Island Rent A Car.

There will also be a 14-and-under division were players from MDX/Armatech, SMF, Boholano/Wings, and San Vicente will battle for basketball supremacy.

Malasarte said this year's UFO games will be played every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525, Ed Manalili at 483-4337, Boy Ching at 287-6046, or Abner Venus at 888-7764.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Falcons clinch playoff berth in Juniors

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Natibu Sports Association-Talaabwogh Falcons secured a spot in the Saipan Little League Junior Division playoffs after a 12-10 comeback victory over DPS-Dare Program-Leep-Enforcers (5-6) last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win was the Falcons' seventh in 11 games and gave them an automatic bid into the playoffs with top-ranked Haiwaya Technologies, Inc.-Ol'Aces (10-1) and the Bank of Saipan Red Sox (8-3). The final spot is still up for grabs between the Enforcers and the Saipan Shipping Company-Jets (5-6).

This Sunday at Tan Ko Field the Enforcers run into the Red Sox, while the Jets finish up against the Falcons at 9am and noon, respectively.

Meanwhile in other results, the Ol'Aces fended off the Jets, 6-5, on Tuesday, while this past Sunday, the Falcons shellacked the Division of Youth Services-Ramon S. Basa- Frederick P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions (0-11), 26-8, in five heavy frames.

Little League opening playoff rounds for the Junior and Senior divisions are scheduled for Thursday, May 17.

The Top 2 seeded teams of each age class will battle it out for a bye. The Junior League game starts at 4pm between top-ranked Ol'Aces and Red Sox followed by the Senior pairing at 6:30pm featuring Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces (10-0) taking on Juan Santiago's Jets II (8-3), the Falcons (8-3), or the IT&E Fielders (8-3).

The official playoff matchups will be confirmed upon completion of the remaining regular schedule.

The playoffs will utilize a page system format among the Top 4 place finishers of each division. Games will continue over the weekend leading up to the respective championship and consolation games, which are slated for May 22 and May 24.

The Big Division's opening playoff match will be held on May 19 at 3pm between this year's pennant champion and 2011 defending champion Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces (8-4) against the Paradise Island Animal Hospital-Hustlers (7-4).

JUNIOR DIVISION
Falcons 12, Enforcers 10

The Falcons took an early 3-0 lead in the first inning off three hits. James Kintaro smashed a two-RBI single.

Then after both teams mustered a run in the second, the Enforcers knotted it at 4-all in the third inning from a two-RBI triple by Darrion Jones. He was later driven in by P.J. Sablan.

Falcons' Derek Naog singled home Franklin Lizama in the fourth inning to reassume control, but Enforcers' Cedric Camacho got it back off a couple of errors in the bottom of the fifth.

Enforcers' Caleb Takao made some noise with a three-run inside-the-park home run to close the sixth inning that gave his team new life, but the Falcons dug deep late in the match and somehow cranked out a seven-run charge in the last inning of regulation.

Notably, Enforcers reliever Jones pitched 4 1/3 solid innings from when he

See FALCONS on Page 27

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Falcons ace pitcher Derek Naog works from the hump to help his team secure a slot in the upcoming Junior League playoffs in Thursday's regular season matchup against the Enforcers held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Pangelinan Ballfield.

UFO scraps 21-39 division, moves start to May 20

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The United Filipino Organization has scrapped its 21-39 age group and moved the opening of the 2012 UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League from May 12 to May 20.

Organizers have also changed the location of the opening ceremony as one of the fiberglass basketball backstops at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium was broken earlier in the week.

UFO president Bong Malasarte said instead of the Oleai Sports Complex venue, the UFO caging will now stage its opening ceremonies and mostly likely its games at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

He added that organizers were forced to shelve the 21-39 division because of the low number of teams that showed interest in joining the competition.

Malasarte said only four teams originally enlisted in the age group— MDX/Civic Boys, Bayani/Mobil, MIFICPA/Proa, and defending champion MAFEA/Konflikt.

Despite the postponement of the league and scrapping of the 21-39

See UFO on Page 27

MPU-2 still perfect in U15; Wild Bill's absorbs 1st loss

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MPU-2 Silver remained unscathed in Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's 2012 Boys U15 Spring Youth League.

Silver notched its eighth win in eighth matches after thoroughly dominating Paire Football Club, 13-0, last May 5 at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

Brian Lee found the back of the net four times in the win, while teammates Jehn Joyner and John Raymond Taiscan completed hat tricks for the U15 powerhouse.

Also scoring for Silver were Daniel Lim, Ryota Ito, and Dakota Hall. The loss dropped Paire FC's record to a 5-2-1 win-loss-draw card.

In other recent boys U15 results, Tan Holdings FC skunked Matansa FC, 7-0; Matansa beat Tan Holdings, 7-2: Paire FC nipped MPU-1 Blue, 2-1; and Shirley's FC defeated MPU-1 Blue, 3-1.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MPU-2 Silver's Jehn Joyner, seen here in a file photo, scored three goals in his team's 13-0 win over Paire FC in last weekend's Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's 2012 Boys U15 Spring Youth League.

MEN'S DIVISION

Over in the 2012 Men's Spring League, Wild Bill's finally tasted the bitter taste of defeat after Korean Football Association of Saipan edged the erstwhile undefeated team, 3-2, last May 6 at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

Sung Ho Kang scored the game's first goal in the 21st minute to give previously winless KFAS a 1-0 lead. Chong Koo Gil would put Wild Bill's in a 0-2 hole after he connected in the 60th minute.

But just when everyone was counting Wild Bill's out, Adul Detdon and Robert Jordan equalized the game at 2-2 with goals in the 66th and 86th minute, respectively.

KFAS will not be denied though, as Jeong Jin Jeon gave them the lead with a score three minutes later that

See MPU-2 on Page 27

Man Amigos, Natibu absorb first losses

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Natibu's Jerome Delos Santos batted 3-for-3 with four RBIs and a run against the Man Amigos in their CSA-2nd Budweiser Softball League men's division game last Monday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Natibu (9-1) overcame a 12-run deficit to exact the defending men's champion Man Amigos (6-1) their first loss of the season, 16-15, in Monday's Chamolinian Softball Association-2012 Budweiser Softball League matchup held at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Also on Monday, Sakudi (4-2) downed the Rookies (1-4), 14-3, in women's play, while men's Ur Balls (5-3) routed the G-Ballers (2-6), 25-12.

In addition, a pair of notable upsets served men's Natibu and women's Check It Out (4-1) their first losses of the season in last Friday's episode.

Gagu Eyez (6-2) upset Natibu, 12-5, in the first match and women's 670 Babes (3-2) followed suit with an 18-9 shocker over top-ranked Check it Out, while men's Familia (4-5) was credited with a forfeit victory over Ur Balls in the late pairing. However, organizers may reschedule the matchup because the latter squad may have not

See MAN on Page 27